

July 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

NC Counts Coalition has partnered with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Child and Family Wellbeing to address the behavioral health needs of Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or questioning (LGBTQ+) children/students in grades K-12 affected by COVID-19. Through this partnership, we are working with community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout the state) to deliver community outreach that will help us better understand the behavioral health needs of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students in grades K-12 in communities throughout North Carolina.

Our project includes a community engagement element that will engage parents, caretakers, and others connected to youth in education and dialogue around responding to the behavioral health needs of children in their families and community. Participants must be 18 and older and will receive \$75 in gift cards as compensation and appreciation for their time and participation. Information collected will be shared with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Child and Family Wellbeing to assist in creating a framework that supports expanding access to resources that address behavioral health through CBOs.

Onward,

*Stacey L. Carless*

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Executive Director  
NC Counts Coalition