NC InCK
NC INTEGRATED CARE FOR KIDS

Summer 2026 Supports & Activities: Resource for Case Managers

Quick Links:

- Summer Options for All Counties
- Prepaid Health Plan Summer Supports
- Other Free & Low-Cost Community Resources

Summer Options for All Counties: These are staple summer resources available in all counties.

General Tips:

- Some YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and Parks & Rec camps offer limited transportation or are near bus routes.
- Encourage families to ask about meals, scholarships and accommodations for special needs.
- Caregivers may need immunization records and their Medicaid plan name for registration.
- School social workers and DSS caseworkers are great resources and navigation supports.

Resource	Details/ How to Access
4-H Summer Camps	**Offers:** Hands-on enrichment at full and half day camps featuring agriculture, science, STEM, leadership, arts, outdoor skills, healthy living. Some locations have overnight options. **Ages:** Children and youth, typically ages 5–18 (varies by camp) **How to Access:** • Registration opens **February 2, 2026** for most camps • Enroll online or through the local county office • Encourage families to join 4-H early so they're ready when registration opens • Scholarships and fee reductions are widely available
Parks & Recreation	**Offers:** Low-cost day camps with crafts, sports, games, swimming, and field trips **Ages:** Children and youth, typically ages 5–17. Open to county or city residents (non-residents may pay higher fees) **How to Access** • Sliding fee scale registration opens **February 2, 2026** for most counties • Register through city or county Parks & Recreation departments (online or in person)
YMCA Summer Camps	**Offers:** Day camps with structured activities such as sports, swimming, outdoor play, arts & crafts, team building, and enrichment **Ages:** Children and youth, typically ages 5–15 (varies by location and open to members and non-members). Limited options for teens at some branches.

the YMCA FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT® FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	**How to Access:** • Most camps have opened summer registration including applications for financial assistance • Teens 16+ can apply to be a Youth Counselor
Boys & Girls Clubs BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTH CAROLINA	**Offers:** Full-day summer programs with academics, enrichment, recreation, and leadership activities. Meals and snacks often included. **Ages:** Children and youth, typically ages 6–18. **How to Access:** • Register through local Boys & Girls Club in person – call local office to ask about registration dates • Fee waivers are often available; some clubs are heavily grant-funded, making them free or very low-cost. • Some Medicaid/PHP plans cover membership costs
Rural Options	**Offers:** Rural options tend to be limited. Fewer "official" county programs are regularly listed online. They tend to offer more Faith-Based Camps (e.g. churches) and they vary year to year. **Tips for how to access:** • City of Oxford Parks and Rec: monitor this website for 2026 camps • Inquire with local churches, department of social services and the school.

Prepaid Health Plan Summer Supports: North Carolina Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs) under Medicaid Managed Care offer value-added services (VAS) or "extra benefits." Common value-added services include resources on health (weight watchers, money to buy over the counter products), education (tutoring, GED programs and back to school stipends), transportation, and some offer funding for summer support.

Resource	Details/ How to Access
Wellcare of North Carolina United Healthcare Healthy Blue AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina Carolina Complete Health	Each Medicaid health care plan offers a one-time payment toward summer or afterschool programs: • Programs may include a voucher that may be used for the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H memberships, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts etc. • For the YMCA, families may explore YMCA financial assistance options to cover remaining costs. • Members should login to their member portal or contact their Medicaid health plan's Member Services to inquire. • Use the links to the left for general information. **Disclaimer:** Benefits vary by health plan; members must be currently enrolled in the plan offering the voucher, and availability is not guaranteed. Eligibility criteria and processing timelines apply.

Other Free & Low-Cost Community Resources: Free to low-cost options fill up quickly. Families at times must become creative with summer options for their children.

Tips:

- Combine library programs, parks, and summer meals to create daily structure.
- Look for half-day, week-by-week, or pop-up programs.
- Check community centers, churches, and local nonprofits for last-minute options.
- Social media (local events groups, city Facebook pages) can also fill in pop-up or newly announced community events.

Resource	Details/ How to Access
Local Parks, Community Events & Festivals	Utilize event-discovery resources to search for things to do — by date, category, and location, including family-friendly activities: Macaroni KID Macaroni KID has city-based calendars featuring family-friendly events, activities, and local happenings, along with regular updates on camps, classes, festivals, and community resources for parents and caregivers. **Public Library Community Boards** (in person and online: Libraries often serve as hubs for local nonprofits and Parks & Recreation departments to share information. • Librarians are great resource specialists and can also help families identify age-appropriate programs • Families will also find free or low-cost camps, reading programs, meal sites, youth activities, and community events posted at the library. • The library will also offer educational enrichment opportunities during the summer months to keep kids engaged in reading and learning **Resources Highlight:** Discover Durham - wide variety of events happening in Durham. Use search function to filer events suited to your interests and ages and find festivals, markets and more.
Summer Meals Programs SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS North Carolina	SUN Bucks: SUN Bucks is a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that provides grocery-buying benefits in a one-time payment of $120 per eligible child on a debit-like card that can be used to buy nutritious food during the summer months when schools are out. **Summer 2026 Dates TBA**
Youth Employment Opportunities NCDOL NC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LUKE FARLEY, COMMISSIONER	Employment is a great way for teens to earn income, stay busy and explore career interests during the summer months. Look for employment opportunities that provide structured, supervised activities. Most summer job listings are posted between February and April and tend to fill quickly. Consider applying to: **Parks & Recreation:** lifeguards, aquatic staff, program assistants, and camp aides. • Many roles are open to teens aged 16+, with some positions (e.g., lifeguarding) requiring additional certifications.

	School-Based Job Placement Programs: • Some school districts partner with local organizations to connect students to summer employment, internships, and paid work experiences. Teens should check with their guidance counselor for these opportunities. **Resource Highlight:** Durham YouthWorks is a workforce development program that helps young adults build critical job skills, gain paid work experience, and explore career pathways through placements with local employers and community organizations. Youth under the age of 18 who work in North Carolina must have a Youth Employment Certificate. You may contact the N.C. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Bureau, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. at 1-800-625-2267, if you have questions.