Partnership FOR CHILDREN

OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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ccpfc.org

Planning & Evaluation Committee
Tuesday, December 12, 2017
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Charles Morris Conference Room

Be the Driving Force . . .
. . . to reliably produce predictable outcomes for young children and their families
that improve every year for the next 20 years

I.   **Determination of Quorum & Call to Order – Amy Cannon**
   A. Chair's Comments

II. **Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2017***

III. **Full Session – Strategic Direction – Linda Blanton**
   A. Community Early Childhood Profile -- Cumberland County
   B. NCPC Annual Report to The North Carolina General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
   C. 2016-17 Annual Progress Report Format Change*
      https://ccpfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-17-Cumberland-Annual-Progress-Report.pdf
   D. Smart Start Allocation
      1. Smart Start Application https://ccpfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Application-1.doc
      2. Smart Start Allocation Orientation*
      3. Rubric to Evaluate Assessment Grant Proposals*

IV. **President's Report $^\Delta$ – M. Sonnenberg**

V.   **PFC Holiday Schedule**

HOLIDAY	DATE(S) CLOSED
Christmas	Monday, December 25, 2017 – Friday, December 29, 2017
New Year's Day 2018	Monday, January 1, 2018
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 15, 2018

VI. **Adjournment**
   A. Next meeting – January 9th

* Needs Action $^\Delta$ Information Only   *!* Possible Conflict of Interest (Recusals)

PFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by public and private
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NORTH CAROLINA
NC Pre-K
Prekindergarten Program

a partner
in the
Smart Start
network

Be the Driving Force.

Smart Start
Each Child. Every Community.

The North Carolina Partnership for Children

Community Early Childhood Profile -- Cumberland County

Smart Start's Measures of Impact

Draft Results for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Community Early Childhood Profile (EC Profile) provides an annual snapshot of the status of our young children.
It includes indicators of child well-being for which local Smart Start Partnerships are held accountable.

The EC Profile assesses progress towards realizing Smart Start's mission of advancing a high quality, comprehensive, accountable early childhood system that benefits each child in North Carolina beginning with a healthy birth.

The report uses validated data from state agencies that directly impact young children such as the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and the NC Office of State Budget and Management. It replaces the PBIS report.

FY 2016-2017 EC Profile DRAFT Results for Cumberland

Indicator	Description	Standards	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
		Early Care and Education -- Quality				
PLA40a	Average Star Rating for Children in 1-5 Star Care	Minimum: 4.0 AND 60% High Performing: 4.0 AND 60% for each age group	4.16	Meets Minimum	4.19	Meets Minimum
PLA40b	Percent of Children in 4 and 5 star care		72%	Meets Minimum	73%	Meets Minimum
PLA50a	Average Star Rating for Subsidized Children in 1-5 Star Care	Minimum: 4.25 AND 80% High Performing: Minimum plus 4.25 AND 70% for each age group	4.44	Meets Minimum	4.40	Meets Minimum
PLA50b	Percent of Subsidized Children in 4 and 5 star care		90%	Meets Minimum	88%	Meets Minimum
		Early Care and Education -- Workforce				
EDU10	Percent of Children Enrolled in 1-5 Star Centers That Have At Least 75% of Lead Teachers with College Degrees (i. e. 7 Lead Teacher Education Points)	Minimum: 50% of children are in sites with 7 lead teacher education points High Performing: 50% of children are in sites with 7 lead teacher education points for age group	56%	Meets Minimum	63%	High Performing

Indicator	Description	Standards	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
EDU20	Percent of Children Enrolled in 1-5 Star Centers That Have Directors with College Degrees (i.e. 7 Administrator Education Points)	Minimum: 60% of children are in sites with 7 administrator education points High Performing: 60% of children are in sites with 7 administrator education points for age group	65%	Meets Minimum	73%	High Performing
			Family Support			
FS20	Percent of Parents/ Guardians Who Report Reading to Their Children Daily	Minimum: TBD High Performing: TBD	44% Statewide	TBD	41% Statewide	TBD
FS30	Percent of children age 0-5 with an investigated report of child abuse/neglect.	>= 5.0% and <12.0% A range has been set based on the distribution of identified children among counties. If the county is outside the range, the partnership will convene meetings to review data	8.5%	Within the range	7.8%	Within the Range
			Health			
H10a	Percent of children ages 0-2 who receive early intervention or special education services	>= 4.0% and <10.0% A range has been set based on the distribution of identified children among counties. If the county is outside the	3.2%	Outside the range	TBD	TBD

Indicator	Description	Standards	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17	
H10b	Percent of children ages 3-5 who receive early intervention or special education services	partnership will convene meetings to review data	3.0%	Outside the range	3.2%	Outside the Range
H20	Percent of children enrolled in Medicaid who receive a well-child exam	Minimum: 75% High Performing: 85%	80% Statewide	Meets Minimum	82% Statewide	Meets Minimum
H60	Percent of low income children age 2-4 who are at a healthy weight	Minimum: 66.1% High Performing:70%	71.30%	High Performing	71.20%	High Performing

Smart Start

Annual Report to
The North Carolina General Assembly
for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Introduction

Dear Members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

It is our pleasure to provide the North Carolina Partnership for Children/Smart Start 2016 – 2017 Annual Report in response to G.S. 143B-168.12(d).
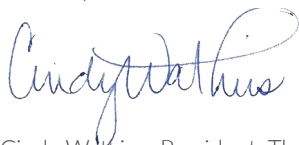
The Smart Start network has had a number of significant accomplishments during the last fiscal year. This includes leveraging federal funding to grow Shape NC which ensures young children in child care are exercising, playing outside, and eating fruits and vegetables. The network also began the process of implementing a statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library with funding from the General Assembly. Both examples illustrate not only how more children are getting the things they need early in life – healthy food, books, and play-filled learning – but how critical the earliest years are to the lifelong success of each child. Federal and state officials, business leaders, and community leaders all understand the value of investing in our early childhood infrastructure, ensuring that each child in every community starts kindergarten eager and ready to succeed.

This report highlights the long history of Smart Start working to improve early care and education across the state which has contributed to 74 percent of children in care being in the highest quality centers. In addition, a more recent focus on early literacy to help ensure North Carolina's children are reading proficiently by third grade has resulted in more than 120,000 children participating in early literacy programs. As an increasing amount of research speaks to the impressive outcomes of family support, parent education, and home visiting programs, Smart Start local partnerships have worked hard to expand these programs to more families. Finally, as the obesity epidemic and rising cost of health care continue to strain national economies, Smart Start is focusing on the root of the issue by working to instill healthy behaviors in the earliest years.

The Smart Start network reaches deep into every North Carolina community, serving each child and family in a way that meets their needs, addressing the challenges they face. At the same time, the network spans across our state creating a foundational infrastructure that delivers early childhood programs and services in a consistent, efficient way, achieving strong outcomes that benefit all North Carolinians. This is why our state continues to be recognized as a leader in early education, and why businesses so often look to North Carolina as a place to expand knowing that we are investing in a workforce that will help them compete in national and global markets.

I am grateful for your continued leadership of our state. And I am proud to live in a state where investments in the earliest years are a top priority knowing that they contribute to a lifetime of success for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

Cindy Watkins, President, The North Carolina Partnership for Children/Smart Start

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The Smart Start Network

Smart Start is a network of 75 nonprofit local partnerships that serve all 100 North Carolina counties. This network is led by The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) that ensures fiscal and programmatic accountability, and coordinates a statewide network to create better outcomes for children and families.

Children are born ready to learn but may not have access to the experiences or environments that foster healthy brain development such as engaged child-parent interaction, quality child care and excellent health care. When we provide communities, child care providers, and parents and families with the tools and resources they need so that every child is nurtured and cared for from birth, we ensure quality early childhood learning opportunities and healthy brain development.
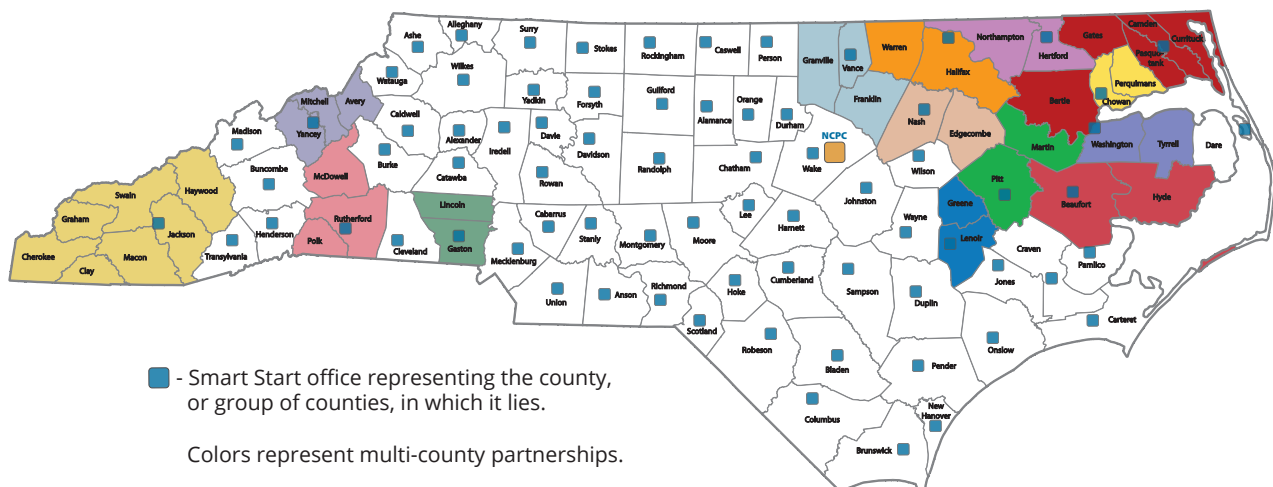
Smart Start brings communities together—parents, child care and health care providers, educators, business people, elected officials, public safety—and provides the tools and resources they need to fully engage young children in learning opportunities, so they can grow to be healthy, productive and well-rounded students, parents, workers, and leaders.

This structure establishes a system for state-wide governance and innovation with local inspiration that works in communities across our state.

Serving children birth to five, Smart Start works across the state to raise the quality of child care, strengthen families, advance child health and development, and improve early literacy. The network implements other state, federal, local, and private programs and services, such as NC Pre-K, child care subsidy, Corporation for National and Community Service's Social Innovation Fund, and Shape NC.

Research released in 2016 from the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy found that state investments in Smart Start and NC Pre-K resulted in higher test scores, less grade retention and fewer special education placements through fifth grade. In fact, at average funding levels, Smart Start was found to reduce special education placements in grades three, four and five by nearly 10 percent, and reduce a child's chance of being retained by fifth grade by 13 percent.

- Smart Start office representing the county, or group of counties, in which it lies.

Colors represent multi-county partnerships.

How It Works

At the state level, NCPC works to ensure data driven results and accountability for the entire network, as well as make sure that state investments are producing strong outcomes for children. The Smart Start *Resource Guide of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices* provides local partnerships with evidence on program outcomes to support informed budget choices that produce targeted results for communities. In addition, continuous fiscal and quality monitoring ensures effectiveness and helps promote innovation. This includes:

- Training local partnership board members and staff on fiduciary oversight thus protecting accountability in all financial processes from budget oversight to contract management
- Monitoring local partnerships to ensure compliance with state and federal laws, legislative mandates, and state policies
- Supporting centralized accounting, contracting, and back office functions that promote efficiency for the network
- Guiding local partnerships toward selection and implementation of evidence-based, evidence-informed programs to achieve the best outcomes for children
- Reviewing programs at the local level to ensure services are targeting and addressing unique community needs, and not duplicative of other investments
- Facilitating the sharing of resources, innovative ideas, and solutions across the Smart Start network so that individual counties benefit from a collective knowledge rather than wasting public resources on a problem that has already been solved in another county
- Maintaining a centralized portal for collection of programmatic data including numbers served and outcomes for each activity
- Disaggregating and providing access to county level measures of child well-being collected from state agencies to inform community planning

In local communities, local partnerships have the flexibility to use data-driven decision making to determine how to improve the health, well-being, and development of their children based on the needs and resources of their local communities. They support the needs of families and children during this critical developmental period by using a combination of state, federal, local, and private funds to provide comprehensive services and programs that support and strengthen this early development by:

- Ensuring child care is high quality, child-focused and family-friendly
- Providing subsidy services and access to high quality early education
- Supporting NC Pre-K providers and providing family assistance
- Advancing child health and development through child care centers and medical practices
- Supporting families with programs that improve parenting skills and promote involvement with their child's education
- Promoting early literacy with programs that assist parents, and child care and medical providers
- Ensuring sustainable implementation of evidence-based early childhood services

With statewide governance and local data-driven, decision making, the Smart Start network acts as an effective and efficient planning and delivery mechanism for North Carolina's early childhood system. The network not only provides programs and services to families and children, but also supports shared learning and innovation, allows for flexibility to address problems and assure opportunity for young children, and leverages other public and private dollars, making North Carolina a leader in early childhood care and education.

Funding

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, local partnership expenditures of state Smart Start funds totaled $142 million. In addition, NCPC expended $4.89 million. Of this, $1.91 million were local partnership funds managed by NCPC to meet legislative requirements, including the fiscal accountability system and local partnership audits, as well as helping local partnerships build their capacity. The remaining $2.99 million was used by NCPC to ensure that Smart Start fully met all legislatively-mandated requirements and operated to the highest standards of fiscal and programmatic integrity. NCPC provides leadership in best practices and evidence-based, evidence-informed services.

With the highest standards of accountability, North Carolina's early childhood system efficiently moves resources to serve children. Together, the 76 separate organizations (NCPC and 75 independent local partnerships) are able to effectively budget resources, reverting only 0.44 percent of the 2016-2017 Smart Start funds.

Federal, local and private funders have invested millions of dollars in North Carolina's early childhood system because Smart Start provides the infrastructure in each local community to deliver results. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, NCPC and the Smart Start local partnerships together leveraged an additional $40.3 million for the state's young children including $28.5 million in cash and $11.8 million from in-kind contributions.

Smart Start

Raising the Quality of Early Care and Education

A top priority for Smart Start is increasing the quality of early care and education across the state. The goal is to promote high quality early care that is child-focused and family-friendly. In North Carolina, licensed child care facilities have star ratings between 1 and 5 stars, with 5 stars being the highest. Smart Start supports initiatives to improve the quality or maintain the high quality (4-5 stars) of child care centers, ensure access to high quality centers for children, and help child care providers by offering professional development and technical assistance.

Raising the Star Ratings

Smart Start works to create a strong foundation for programs and services to achieve successful outcomes as they are implemented and facilitated in centers that have 4 or 5 star ratings, retain educated and qualified teachers, promote health and physical activity, and engage parents. NCPC works with statewide partners to ensure the latest research and effective programs are being applied across the state, while local partnerships work directly with child care centers. Over the past several years, this focus on quality improvement has dramatically improved the landscape of early care and education in North Carolina. In fact, the average star rating for children enrolled in regulated early child care and education programs has jumped from 2.76 in 2001 to 4.32 in 2017.

Spotlight on:

Smart Start works directly with child care centers in each county to understand where the greatest needs for quality enhancements are, including environmental ratings, teacher education and skill-building, and health and nutrition. This ability to target and address the needs of each center means:

- In Durham County, **Durham's Partnership for Children** supports technical assistance in child care centers to improve their level of quality. In one such case, the local partnership's funded partner helped a large child care center improve its three-star rating. By focusing on improved teaching strategies and hiring practices, enrolling teachers in T.E.A.C.H (an early childhood college credit scholarship program), and training teachers in health and safety, the Smart Start investment helped the center reach a five-star rating

- In Brunswick County, **Smart Start of Brunswick County** funds The Child Care WAGE$® Project which provides education-based salary supplements to teachers, directors, and providers working with children under the age of five. One educator noted that the Project gives her "an incentive to do the best that I can do." This is just one example of how the partnership is helping to enhance the quality of their teachers.

- In Craven County, the Little Blessings child care center received assistance from **Craven Smart Start** to increase its level of quality. The center worked with the local partnership and received technical assistance in a variety of areas including infant toddler social behaviors, professional development, and health practices. Since receiving help, the center has established a five-star rating.
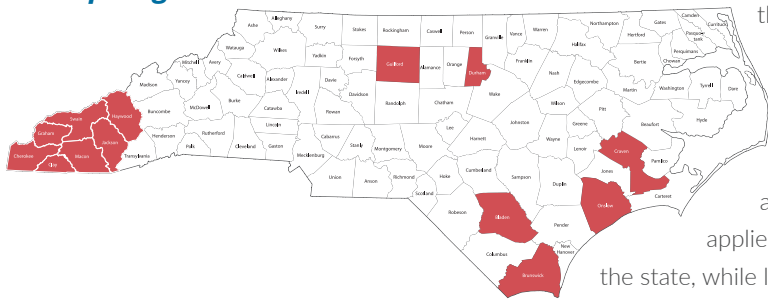
A Value Add to Subsidy Funds

For years, Smart Start subsidy funds have been used to increase the quality of early child care and education in the state. Many Smart Start local partnerships manage subsidy funds within their communities to boost quality and promote access for children that are at the highest risk. NCPC supports subsidy innovation by sharing success stories across the network so they may be replicated or adapted in other counties. This ability to be innovative with subsidy dollars to address local needs means:

- In one of the counties served by the **Region A Partnership for Children**, a mother was seeking child care placement for her young child so that she could enter the workforce. Since the local partnership provides subsidy enhancements to children enrolled in centers with four or five-star ratings, the mother received subsidy assistance for a high-quality center. She now sees a huge growth in language development in her child and plans to attend more programs offered by the partnership.

Infrastructure Support for NC Pre-K

Across the Smart Start network, local partnerships partner with NC Pre-K providers to help eligible four-year-olds access the program, co-chair the NC Pre-K Committees in all counties, administer the NC Pre-K program in 55 counties through a separate contract with the Division of Child Development and Early Education, and provide an additional $8,760,000 of funding to NC Pre-K across the state to ensure high quality services and increase access for children. Because there is local flexibility in how NC Pre-K is administered, Smart Start is able to support the program in ways that best meet the needs of families and school systems, which means:

- In Guilford County, many children were on a waiting list to attend NC Pre-K. The **Guilford County Partnership for Children** provided funding for enrollment for children to be in NC Pre-K settings, allowing more low-income children to receive a quality education.

- In Onslow County, the **Onslow County Partnership for Children** staff collaborated with other education providers to establish a yearlong training series for NC Pre-K teachers and assistants. The training series allowed teachers throughout the county to collaborate while participating in professional development. Because of the trainings, NC Pre-K teachers are now better prepared to tackle early childhood education challenges.

Supporting North Carolina Families

Recent research has proven the tremendous long-term benefits of family support and home visiting programs. Studies of these programs have highlighted improved maternal and child health, increased maternal employment, and improved school readiness. Research has also produced new insights on the importance of adult-child interaction, managing behavior, and preparing children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Smart Start offers family-focused programs that improve parenting and promote involvement. NCPC supports these programs

Spotlight on:
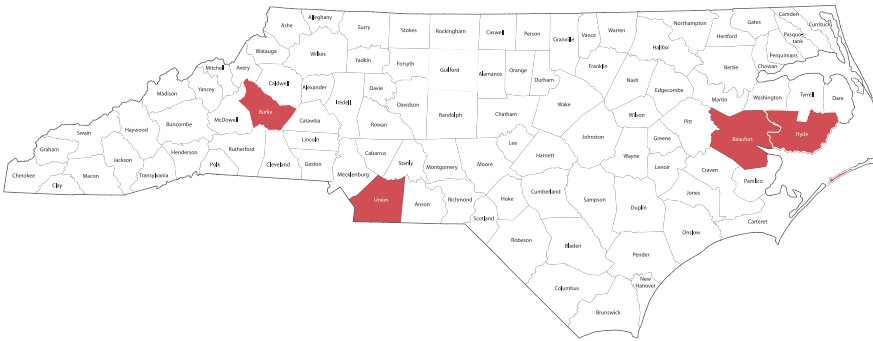
by evaluating the emerging evidence around parent strengthening and engagement programs and providing technical assistance on how to implement them in effective ways. Parent education programs give parents tools to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices. Home visiting programs help new parents and parents-to-be by providing education, information, and resources. This dedication to a whole-family approach means:

- In Burke County, a young unemployed mother suffering from homelessness was referred to the Burke County Public Schools Parents as Teachers

program funded by **Burke County Smart Start, Inc.** Through assistance provided by the program, she gained new parenting skills and access to resources for her child. She has succeeded in finding and maintaining a job and in providing a home for her family and is a huge advocate for the Parents as Teachers program.

- In Union County, the father of two young children was hesitant to receive help from the Nurturing Parent Program offered by the **Alliance for Children**. However, through his participation in the Smart Start funded program, he now shows extensive improvement in empathy and socioemotional connection, improving the overall quality of his interactions with his children.

- In Beaufort County, a mother postponed her son's pre-K attendance as a result of his diagnosis with special needs. A local Preschool Coordinator referred the parent to **Beaufort-Hyde County Partnership for Children's** Facilitated Playgroups program to help her gain confidence in seeking help for her child. She was then referred to the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, where she learned strategies dealing with behaviors associated with her son's diagnosis. Since attending both programs, she now feels more comfortable about sending her son to pre-K .

See Data and Tables on page 18
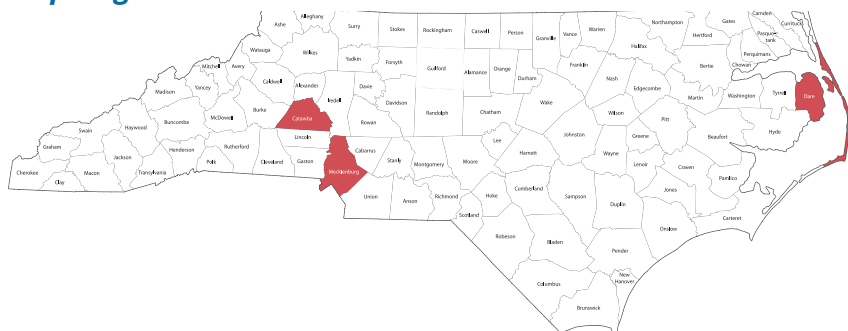
Promoting Early Literacy

Over the past five years, Smart Start has expanded early literacy programs. Literacy affects our state's ability to create a workforce needed to compete in the global market and ensure our future prosperity. Recognizing that a majority of language development occurs in the first few years of life, Smart Start provides programs that develop early literacy skills needed for success in school, work, and life. Smart Start brings proven, national programs to the children and families of North Carolina.

The General Assembly has continued to support efforts that ensure our state's children are reading proficiently by the third grade,

Spotlight on:

including dedicating public funds to early literacy programs such as Reach Out and Read and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. These programs, along with others including Raising a Reader, Motheread/Fatheread, and many more, assist parents in developing habits of daily reading with their children, and assist children in discovering an early love of reading. These programs work together to make sure that there are books in homes, in child care centers, and in pediatrician's offices, creating literacy-rich environments no matter where a child is. Parents also learn about the most effective ways to engage their child in a book. This comprehensive approach to providing

programs in a variety of settings, as well as offering resources to children and parents means:

- In Mecklenburg County, **Smart Start of Mecklenburg County** works with pediatricians in the area to provide books to their youngest patients, as well as a "prescription" to read, through the Reach Out and Read program. At one doctor's office, a mother received books for both of her twin girls and reminders about the importance of reading at each of her visits. The girls now read each night with their parents.

- In Catawba County, the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library delivered nearly 5,000 free books each month to the county's youngest children through its partnership with the **Catawba County Partnership for Children**. In a recent survey, over ninety-one percent of families participating in the program reported their children spending more time with books. One parent noted that their child "would watch the mail for his new book and couldn't wait to read it once it came in the mail."

- In Dare County, a family support program offered by the **Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County** helps parents with their child's literacy development. One father attended a parenting meeting and gained important knowledge on literacy, his son's literacy skills, and more effective ways to help his child. The collaborative program he attended is now offered in all PreK and Headstart classrooms in Dare County to better help young children with their literacy development.
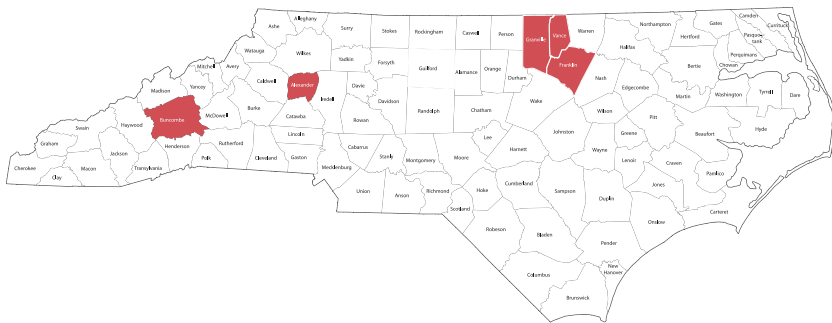
See Data and Tables on page 19

Advancing Child Health and Nutrition

Healthy behavior patterns established early in life often lead to lifelong benefits and decreased probability of serious disease later in life. Smart Start strives to improve outcomes for children by working with medical providers, health departments, families, and communities to improve the health and

Spotlight on:

safety for young children, prevent childhood obesity, and ensure that more children are screened for developmental delays and referred to services for help long before they start school.

One of these key initiatives is Shape NC, a program created by NCPC with funding from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina. The program has seen tremendous results in increasing physical activity, healthy eating, and use of outdoor learning environments in child care centers across the state. NCPC worked with other state level organizations devoted to healthy habits to develop Shape NC which is incorporating best practices in a number of areas for children and staff at centers. Most recently, Shape NC received federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service Social Innovation Fund. Communities are now leveraging federal and private dollars with a program that was made possible by state investments in the Smart Start network.

This focus on instilling healthy habits early and working to change the environments that children spend a significant amount of time in means:

- In Buncombe County, a child recently diagnosed with diabetes was enrolled in a child care center that needed assistance in handling his condition. **The Buncombe County Partnership for Children** connected a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) with the center. The consultant helped the center develop an individual health care plan and educated both the staff and parent about proper diabetic monitoring.

- In Alexander County, the new Farm to Child Care initiative administered by the **Alexander County Partnership for Children** focuses on increasing the usage of fresh produce and enhancing physical activity. One child care center has established its own garden, introduced weekly tastings of healthy foods, and worked with farmers to increase excitement about healthy eating. One parent noted that she is serving more nutritious meals at home because of her child's experience at her child care center

- In one of the counties served by the **Franklin-Granville-Vance Partnership for Children**, two child care directors grew gardens as part of Smart Start's Shape NC initiative. The directors raised fresh produce for the families of the children that attended the center and even established a produce market for the easy distribution of healthy produce.

See Data and Tables on page 20

smart Start™

Enhancing Sustainability for Early Childhood Infrastructure

Smart Start's network of early childhood partnerships provide expertise, guidance and infrastructure to ensure North Carolina's children receive the care and nurturing they need to thrive. As the local partnerships work to enhance support to families, early childhood professionals, and the communities they serve, NCPC works at the state level to assist lawmakers in exploring opportunities to strengthen coordination of early childhood governance, as well as ensures the network is meeting and responding to all Legislative mandates and changes.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, NCPC provided recommendations to the HHS Oversight Subcommittee on Statewide Early Education and Family Support Programs. This guidance included strengthening coordination of state level governance by formalizing collaboration of early education administrative leaders in order to align strategies, operationalize innovative ideas, and develop a statewide vision for early childhood. This resulted in the 2016-2017 budget including recommendations from the Subcommittee, specifically:

- The collaboration of state agencies and other organizations that administer, support, or study early education in this State.

- The agencies and organizations should use a, "Comprehensive set of data indicators, including consideration of the NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading, to monitor and measure success of the early childhood education programs."

- Creating a transition plan for children moving from NC Pre-K and subsidy in four- and five-star centers into kindergarten.

NCPC has continued to play a significant role in each of these areas including: participation and leadership for the state agencies and other organizations collaboration, engaging as a key partner in all NC Pathways to Grade Level Reading initiatives, and leading efforts on a statewide study that evaluated transition to kindergarten programs providing an important report to guide further kindergarten transition planning.

The state agencies and organizations group has been meeting since February 2016 and received funds from several foundations to hire a professional facilitator. The leaders agreed to adopt a birth through eight focus for early childhood programs and to adopt measures of success which include data indicators from the Pathways Initiative. The group has concluded it's work and will submit its final report to the Legislature by January 2018.

As a key partner in the Pathways initiative led by the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, NCPC helped launch Design Teams to accelerate collaboration and support a shared course of action to have all children reading on grade level by the end of third grade. A critical component to fostering this whole child planning approach is supporting the use of an equity lens. Each Design Team will engage in training to develop a common language and an understanding of equity and structural racism, and will develop strategies to address disparities.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, NCPC supported the following policy changes and investments in early childhood:

- $9 million in the first year and $18.3 million in the second year to increase the number of available slots for the NC Pre-K program.

- An increase to the subsidy market rate for children birth to age two in Tier Three counties beginning October 1, 2017.

- The creation of the "B-3 Interagency Council," led by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction, which included representatives from Smart Start and NCPC. The Council is charged with establishing a vision and accountability for a birth through grade three system of early education.

- $2 million additional recurring funding for Nurse Family Partnership, bringing funding to $3.7 million each year of the biennium.

In addition, the General Assembly included $3.5 million in the first year of the budget and $7 million in the second year for Smart Start to administer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, an early literacy program that delivers books right into the homes of young children. This funding will allow Smart Start to ensure every North Carolina child has access to books during the earliest years, increasing their likelihood of success in school.

A Comprehensive Approach to Early Childhood

Recognizing that children only thrive when their environment supports optimum growth and whole-child development, NCPC has developed a long-term strategic plan that focuses on the health and wellness of the people and communities that influence and support young children's healthy development and growth.

In looking forward to the 2018 legislative session, NCPC will support the following areas of work:

- **Expanding access to programs that nurture strong families** – Parents play the most active and significant role in their baby's healthy development. Young children learn and grow in strong families where parents are able to successfully face the challenge of caring for their children while meeting their work and other responsibilities. Parent education programs give parents tools to increase their knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices, and home visiting programs help new parents and parents-to-be by providing education, information and resources.

- **Continuing support for a comprehensive approach to enhancing early literacy** – Children's early school performance improves when their families are involved in helping them learn to read. Smart Start supports increasing investments in programs that encourage families to engage in daily reading habits early for later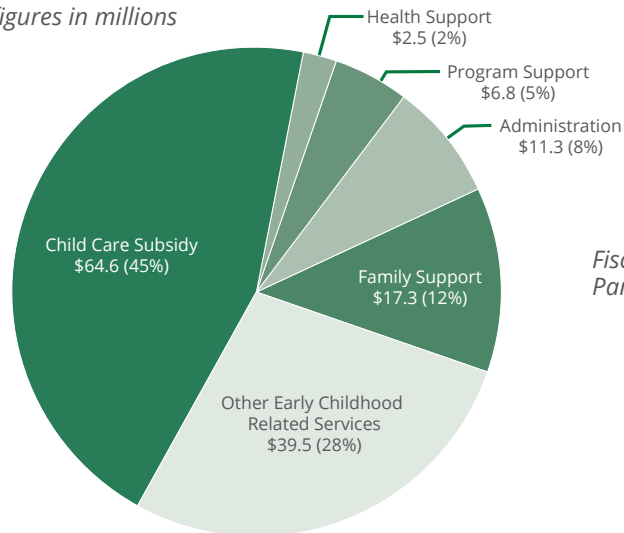 school success. During the 2017 legislative session, the General Assembly provided funding to Smart Start to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library statewide. By combining these early literacy initiatives with effective family strengthening programs, an environment that encourages strong parent-child interaction and an early love of reading is created.

- **Ensuring comprehensive funding to support quality early care and education** – Studies show that children who are in high quality early learning environments enter school with better math, language, and social skills. These environments include sensitive and responsive caregiving, engaging and stimulating play, and a safe and healthy environment. Smart Start supports policies and investments that:

  » Expand access to the NC Pre-K program

  » Provide additional funding for quality care for children age birth to three

  » Support increased education and compensation for the early childhood workforce

These three focus areas will ensure high quality early education opportunities for all children to help prepare them for kindergarten; create engaging and positive environments that support the most critical, early years in a child's development; and recognize that teacher-child relationships play a significant role in influencing young children's overall development.

Graphs, Charts, and Supporting Data

figures in millions

Health Support
$2.5 (2%)

Program Support
$6.8 (5%)

Administration
$11.3 (8%)

Child Care Subsidy
$64.6 (45%)

Family Support
$17.3 (12%)

Other Early Childhood
Related Services
$39.5 (28%)

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Total Local Partnership Expenditures: $142 million

Smart Start Appropriation History Fiscal Years 1993-1994 through 2016-2017 (rounded to millions)
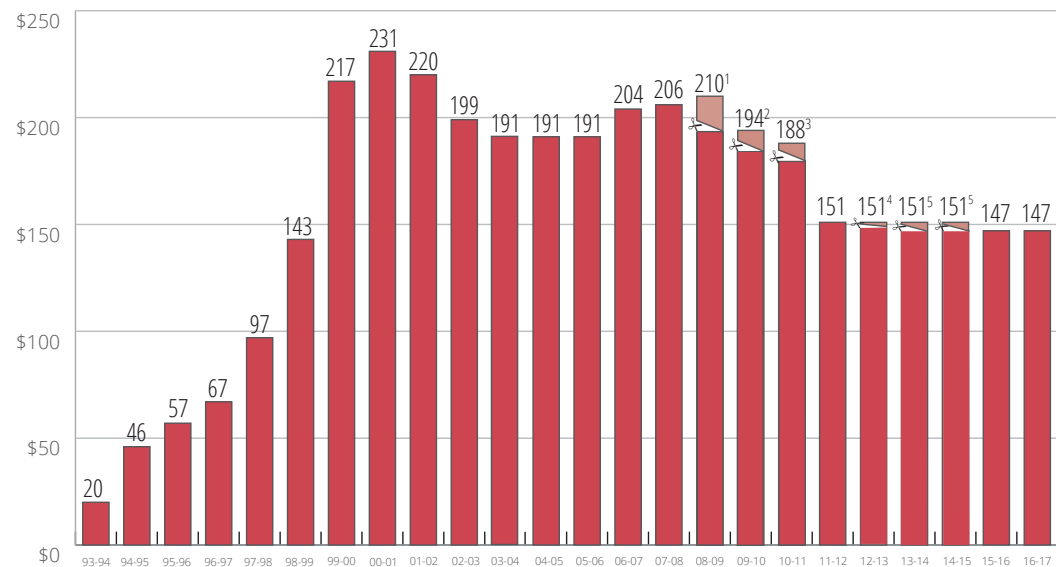
[1] One-time budget reduction of $16M reduced available 08-09 budget to $194M
[2] One-time budget reduction of $7M reduced available 09-10 budget to $187M
[3] One-time budget reduction of $6M reduced available 10-11 budget to $182M
[4] One-time budget reduction of $1M reduced available 12-13 budget to $150M
[5] Recurring budget reduction of $3.7M reduced available 13-15 budget to $147.3M

Early Childhood Allocations Within the Total State Budget

	FY 2000-2001	FY 2016-2017
Total State General Fund Budget	$13,854,000,000	$22,341,000,000
General Fund Smart Start Appropriation	231,000,000	140,000,000
DCD Subsidy General Fund Appropriation	54,000,000	46,000,000
NC Pre-K General Fund Budget	-	47,800,000
% of Total State General Fund Budget	2.1%	1.1%

Raising the Quality of Early Care and Education

Number of children served:

	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
Number of all child care programs (one- to five-star) receiving support to improve or maintain the quality of care.	**2,342** child care programs serving approximately **70,260** children	**2,865** child care programs serving approximately **85,950** children	**2,316** child care programs serving approximately **82,897** children
Number of children receiving subsidy assistance from Smart Start. Not including those assisted through NC Pre-K.	**27,757**	**24,208**	**24,615**
Number of low-paid teachers receiving an education-based salary supplement ensuring continuity of care for children by highly qualified teachers.	**5,596** teachers serving approximately **64,914** children	**5,362** teachers serving approximately **62,199** children	**4,715** teachers serving approximately **54,694** children
Number of teachers participating in Smart Start-funded programs that helped them to study early education at the college level.	**2,151** teachers serving approximately **24,952** children	**2,528** teachers serving approximately **29,325** children	**1,777*** teachers serving approximately **20,613** children
Number of counties where a Smart Start local partnership administers NC Pre-K.	**54**	**55**	**55**

*The decrease from the prior year is largely due to four partnerships discontinuing the use of Smart Start funds for five activities focused on teacher college credits in FY 16-17. In addition, a large partnership decreased support for their teacher college credit activity, shifting focus to other supports for early care and education in FY 16-17.

Results of the previous year:

The following highlights the increase in quality in North Carolina child care programs:

- On average, child care centers that participated in programs to enhance quality had the following outcomes:

  » An increase in average star rating from 3.27 when they began receiving Smart Start funded technical assistance to 4.14 (out of 5) when they were relicensed by the Division of Child Development and Early Education. Smart Start considers 4 and 5 stars to be high quality care.

  ★★★☆☆ ★★★★☆
  Pre   Post

  Average Star Ratings Pre and Post for Child Care Facilities Receiving Assistance In Select Activities to Increase Quality

  » An increase in program standard points from 3.54 to 5.13 (out of 7)

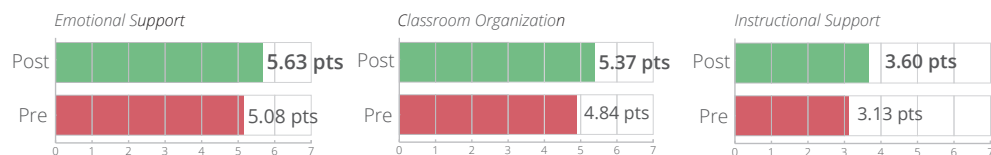 » An increase in teacher education points from 3.88 to 4.94 (out of 7)

- Promoting a child's health and development is the cornerstone of many Smart Start funded activities. Teaching Strategies GOLD is a common instrument for measuring child development. Among those Smart Start funded activities that used Teaching Strategies GOLD, participating children achieved the following outcomes:

  » Below expectations – pre=56%, post=**5%**

  » Meeting expectations – pre=55%, post=**69%**

  » Exceeding expectations – pre=4%, post=**31%**

- These achievements can also been seen in specific domains:

	Pre	Post	Difference
Language - Meets or Exceeds	40%	93%	53%
Literacy - Meets or Exceeds	38%	94%	56%
Math - Meets or Exceeds	27%	88%	61%
Physical - Meets or Exceeds	42%	95%	53%
Social Emotional - Meets or Exceeds	38%	97%	58%

- On average, child care centers that participate in programs to improve teacher-child interactions had the following outcomes based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) - Preschool. Based on a seven point scale:

Emotional Support
Post 5.63 pts
Pre 5.08 pts
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Classroom Organization
Post 5.37 pts
Pre 4.84 pts
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Instructional Support
Post 3.60 pts
Pre 3.13 pts
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- On average, child care centers that participate in programs that enhanced the education environment improved on Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS). Based on a seven point scale:

Post 5.18 pts
Pre 4.52 pts
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- At a statewide level:

  » The percentage of children in 4 and 5 star programs increased from 33 percent in 2001 to **74 percent** in 2017. The percentage of children in low quality, 1 and 2 star programs decreased from 46 percent in 2001 to only **3 percent** in 2017.

  » The average star rating for children enrolled in regulated early child care and education programs increased from 2.76 in 2001 to **4.32** in 2017.

  2001   2017

  » The average star rating for children receiving subsidized care increased from 2.68 in 2001 to **4.52** in 2017.

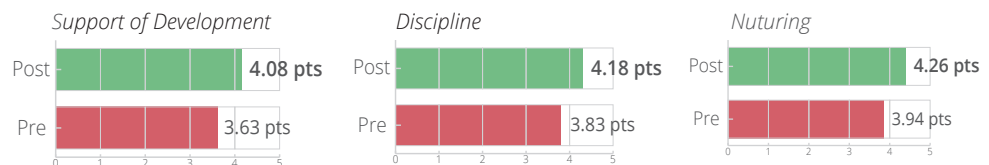 2001   2017

Supporting North Carolina Families

Number of children served:

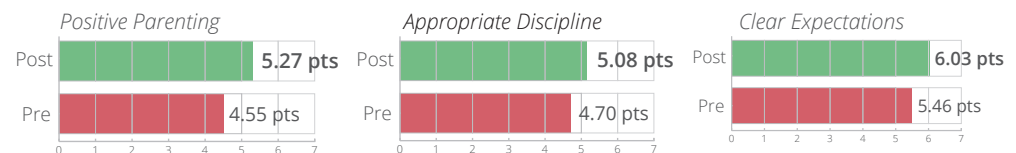|	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
Number of families participating in ongoing parenting programs.	**2,456**	**2,433**	**2,446**
Number of parents receiving assistance to improve their ability to raise healthy successful children through the evidence-based Parents As Teachers (PAT) program.	**2,088** parents impacting **2,815** children	**2,918** parents impacting **3,749** children	**2,970** parents impacting **3,950** children
Number of families participating in Incredible Years (IY) funded by Smart Start.	**307**	**333**	**326**
Number of families participating in Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) funded by Smart Start.	not available	**429**	**653**
Number of caregivers participating in Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) class.	not available	**258**	**511**
Number of caregivers participating in Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP).	not available	**1,071**	**1,102**

Results of the previous year:

Programs that support parent education and family engagement accomplished the following:

- Participating parents showed improvements in the use of positive approaches to supporting their children. Results from the Life Skills Progression Positive Parenting Practice showed improvements for parents in the following areas:

Support of Development
Post — **4.08 pts**
Pre — 3.63 pts

Discipline
Post — **4.18 pts**
Pre — 3.83 pts

Nuturing
Post — 4.26 pts
Pre — 3.94 pts

- Using the Positive Parenting Inventory (PPI), the following increases were reported in the use of appropriate discipline, positive parenting practices, and setting clear expectations (based on a seven point scale):

Positive Parenting
Post — **5.27 pts**
Pre — 4.55 pts

Appropriate Discipline
Post — **5.08 pts**
Pre — 4.70 pts

Clear Expectations
Post — 6.03 pts
Pre — 5.46 pts

- Parents also registered improvements in how they interact with their children to foster development. Based on the Keys to Interactive Parenting (KIPS) measurement tool, participating parents showed the following improvments in their parenting skills:
  » Parents scoring low – pre=13%, post=**7%**
  » Parents scoring moderate – pre=57%, post=**41%**
  » Parents scoring high – pre=30%, post=**52%**

- An increase in parents use of services that they are referred to:
  » FY15-16=79%, FY16-17=**91%**

Smart Start

Promoting Early Literacy

Number of children served:

|	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
Number of children participating in the evidence-based program Reach Out and Read (ROR).	45,907	43,537	70,505
Number of medical offices participating in the Smart Start evidence-based program ROR.	**74** offices in **40** counties	**79** offices in **45** counties	**116** offices in **51** counties
Number of families participating in the evidence-based program Raising A Reader (RAR).	7,114	6,816	7,028
Number of children participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.	not available	32,272	37,543
Number of children whose caregivers are participating in other research-based literacy programs.	not available	3,793	5,230

Results of the previous year:

In the last fiscal year, these programs accomplished the following:

Smart Start has offered a wide range of early literacy initiatives that promote parent and child shared reading time. Results show an increase in the percentage of parents who report reading to their children daily, starting at 29% and growing to 48%.

Reach Out and Read (ROR):

- The percentage of parents reading to their child daily increased

Post — 43%
Pre — 31%
0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%
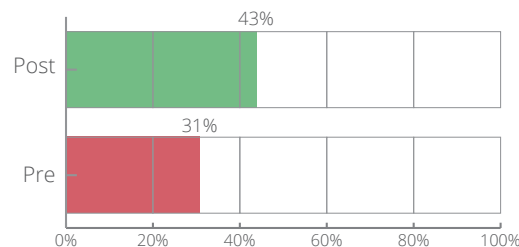
   from 31% to **43%** after participating in ROR

- Smart Start supported ROR showed particular improvements in daily reading among parents of infants and toddlers as well as for families enrolled in Medicaid.

- Parents participating in ROR were **84%** more likely to use at least one recommended reading strategy compared to parents new to the program. Parents showed the greatest improvement in helping children identify shapes, colors, numbers, and letters in the pictures of a storybook.

Advancing Child Health and Nutrition

Number of children served:

	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
Number of medical practices and physicians participating in ABCD	**204** medical practices	**246** medical practices	**152** medical practices
Number of children with special needs or at-risk for developmental delay that received Smart Start health-related enhanced services.	**1,394**	**1,110**	**1,276**
Number of children receiving healthier food options and more physical activity in child care as part of the evidence-based Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC) program.	**2,010**	**1,860**	**2,340**
Number of child care facilities that received child care health consultation (CCHC) services funded by Smart Start.	**2,318** facilities impacting **69,540** children	**2,078** facilities impacting **62,340** children	**2,221** facilities impacting **66,630** children
Number of center staff that attended trainings conducted by CCHC.	Not Available	**7,750**	**8,166**
Number of children that participated in Shape NC initiatives.	**7,171**	**10,727**	**10,496**

Results of the previous year:

Shape NC

An intensive version of Shape NC was provided to 18 Model Early Learning Centers (MELCs) over three years. An additional 212 expansion centers were included in an introductory version of Shape NC.

- The percentage of health and nutrition best practices implemented by MELCs increased from 64% to **83%** between 2014 and 2016.
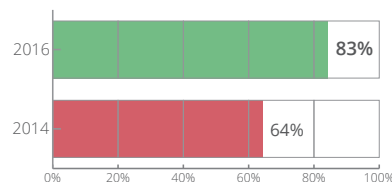

- **96%** of the participating child care expansion centers improved in at least one area.
- MELCs received more intensive coaching and financial support than expansion sites, and some implemented more best practices.

Children at MELCs with complete baseline and outcome data (n=63) showed statistically significant improvements in body mass index (BMI) (mean =58.2, SD =32.3 Wave I and mean =54.5, SD =32.8 Wave V) than children in Expansion sites (mean = 65.5, SD =27.9 Wave I and mean = 64.7, SD =25.9 Wave V).

Smart Start local partnerships helped improve use of healthy practices at child care centers. Centers that received technical assistance to improve their use of nutrition and physical activities for children made significant changes in their nutrition policies, outdoor time, and screen time practices as measured by the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC). NAP SACC is a validated tool to guide technical assistance plans and measure change over time in child care practices.
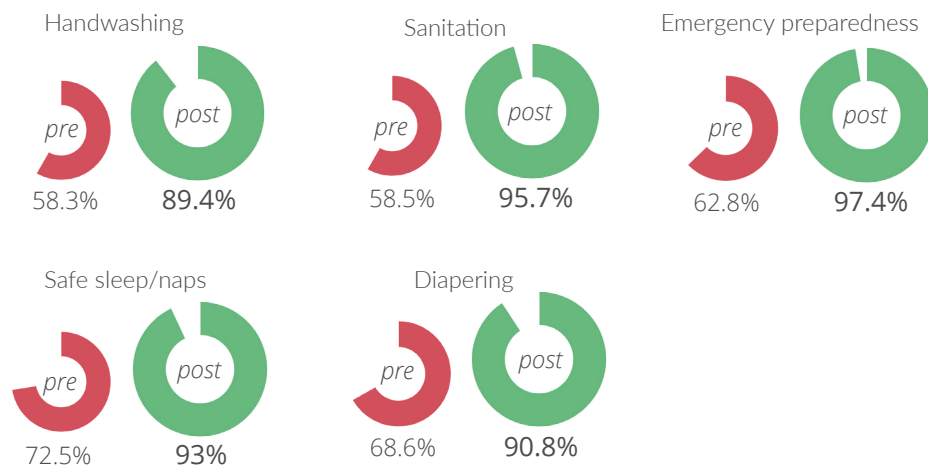
NAP SACC

Percentage of facilities improving in:

Child nutrition	Physical activity	Outdoor play
84%	86%	77%

Screen time	Breastfeeding and Infant feeding
71%	76%
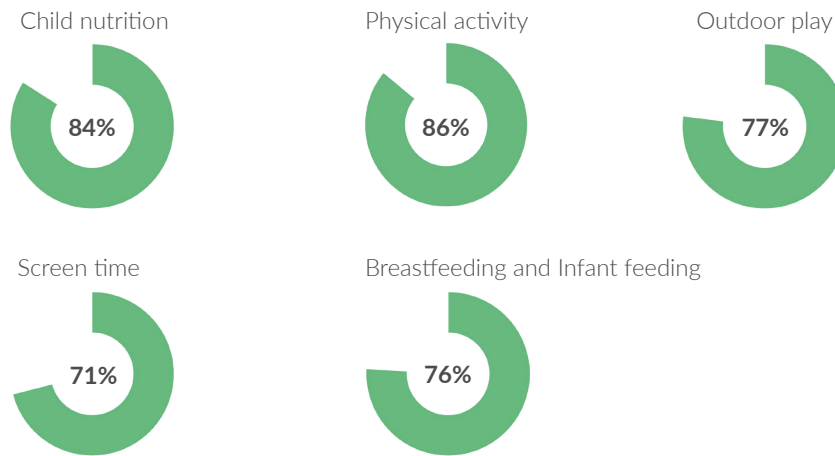
Child Care Health and Safety Assessment

In addition, Smart Start supported the enhanced use of health and safety practices in child care centers, largely through Child Care Health Consultants. Participating centers showed greatest improvements in emergency preparedness, sanitation practices, and safe sleep procedures.

Handwashing		Sanitation		Emergency preparedness	
pre	*post*	*pre*	*post*	*pre*	*post*
58.3%	**89.4%**	58.5%	**95.7%**	62.8%	**97.4%**

Safe sleep/naps		Diapering	
pre	*post*	*pre*	*post*
72.5%	**93%**	68.6%	**90.8%**

Proposals for Review

In response to Partnership for Children's (PFC) Request for Proposals (RFP), for fiscal years 2015-18, 21 proposals were received. The following proposals were received to provide services addressing Early Care & Education Quality, Health and Family Support, Early Care & Education Subsidy, and System Support.

Admin Dollars: $319,799
Service Dollars: $6,229,140
- Request amount $
- Smart Start Service Dollars available $
- $

Focus Area	Early Care & Education (EC&E) Quality	Family/System Support	System Support
	At least 70% [$4,360,398]	**At least 30% [$1,868,742]**	
Proposals to Review	TANF = 45% 1. DSS Subsidy 2. FTCC Subsidy 3. PFC Subsidy NON-TANF = 2% 4. PFC Subsidy 5. Spainhour NON-TANF ADMIN = 4% 6. DSS Subsidy 7. FTCC Subsidy 8. PFC Subsidy 9. Kindermusik = 19% 10. WAGE$ 11. CCR&R	1. All Children Excel 2. Autism 3. Dolly Parton Imagination Library 4. ==Family Connect== 5. Family Support 6. Reach Out and Read	1. Assuring Better Child Health and Development 2. Family Resource Center 3. Community Engagement and Development 4. Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation
Program Staff	▪ Linda Blanton	▪ Rebecca Beck	▪ Candy Scott
Data Management Technicians (DMTs) Staff	▪ Keya Elie	▪ Lydia Wiles	▪ Susan McAllister
Fiscal Staff	▪ Marie Clark ▪ Anna Hall	▪ Marie Lilly	▪ Carole Magnum
Team Leader	▪ Amy Cannon	▪ Julie Aul	▪ Theresa Thompson-Pickney
Team Members	▪ Lynn Greene	▪ Scott Chase ▪ Elise Chung ▪ Mary McCall	▪ Kandy Cox ▪ Carl Mitchell

Allocation Team Roles

Funding decisions are approved at three levels - a local committee, the local PFC Board, and the NC Partnership for Children.

- **Role of the local committee (Allocation Team):** A review panel of parents, representatives from community organizations, and experts involved in children's issues and grantmaking will review proposals and make funding recommendations to the PFC Board.
- **Role of the Board:** The PFC Board will approve final local funding decisions.
- **Role of the NC Partnership for Children:** NC Partnership for Children will approve Smart Start Investments for Cumberland County

The reports received and discussed during the past board meetings tell us we are making progress. However, we continue to recognize there are gaps in services and opportunities to improve outcomes by doing some things differently. **Your task is to determine, first if the activity should be funded and, second, to determine the level of funding.**

Role of Team Leader

1. Read all proposals prior to meetings
2. Facilitate team conversations during meetings
3. Bring team to a consensus decision on each proposal. Recommendations due to PFC by 3/3
4. Attend the allocation team leader meeting on 3/10 to announce recommendation to the other allocation team leaders
5. Negotiate (if necessary) with other team leaders to determine final allocation recommendation for all proposals

Role of Team Member

1. Read all proposals prior to meetings
2. Give thoughtful consideration to each proposal
3. Ask good questions
4. Make decisions based on what is best for children and families

Role of Staff Member

1. Be the technical advisor
2. Be a resource to ensure members have the data in order to make informed decisions

Ground Rules

1. Get involved! Engage! Share your insights!
2. Read all of your proposals – all the way through
3. Be on time for allocation meetings
4. Listen well as others share their insights – be respectful
5. Remember that the role of staff is to advise and support; not advocate or recommend
6. Stay out of the weeds – do not stress!

Allocation Team Guidelines

Fiduciary Relationships

PFC's Officers, Board directors, and team members should act in the best interest of the organization. The basis of this lies in the public's trust that PFC will manage funds to fulfill its mission.

1. <u>Duty of Care</u>: describes the level of competence that is expected and is commonly expressed as "care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise in a like position and under similar circumstances".
2. <u>Duty of Loyalty</u>: is a standard of faithfulness; members must give undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting PFC. This means that a member can never use information obtained for personal gain but must act in the best interest of PFC.
3. <u>Duty of Obedience</u>: requires members to be faithful to PFC's mission. They are not permitted to act in a way that is inconsistent with the current goals of the organization.

Conflict of Interest

Should instances arise where a conflict may be perceived, any individual who may benefit, directly or indirectly, from the disbursement of funds, shall abstain from participating in any decisions or deliberation by the entity regarding the disbursement of those funds. (G.S. 143-6.1).

Source: Adapted from the PFC Bylaws

Proposal Review Format

- January 9, 2018
    - Present Smart Start Overview
    - Breakout into smaller teams and review proposals:
        - A description of the program and significant services and initiatives
        - A history of Smart Start funding and the last three year's expenditures
- February 13, 2018
    - Hear uninterrupted 15 minutes proposal presentations by prospective grantee's sharing?
    - Make allocation and program recommendations on each proposal to forward to larger group
- March 13, 2018
    - Allocation discussion and final funding recommendation forward to Finance Committee and for PFC Board of Directors action on March 29, 2018.

Rubric to Evaluate Assessment Grant Proposals 2017

Application received by Partnership for Children of Cumberland County before deadline. ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Reviewer _____

Project title _____

Organization _____

Name Change: ☐ **Yes**　　　☐ **No**

New Program? ☐ **Yes**　　　☐ **No**

Subsidy_____　　　Early Care & Education_____ Family/Health Support_____　　　System Support_____

**

#	Element	10 POINTS	7 POINTS	4 POINTS	1 POINT
		Choose Only One for Each Element			
1	**Capacity - Evidence/ Research Basis for Activity [2A]**	☐ Smart Start approved evidence-based practices	☐ Smart Start approved evidence-informed practices	☐ Other evidence-based practices	☐ Other evidence-informed practices
2	**Expertise [2B]**	☐ Program staff has 7 **or more** years of experience implementing the EB/EI strategies	☐ Program staff **5 to 7** years of experience implementing the EB/EI strategies	☐ Program staff **3 to 5** years of experience implementing the EB/EI strategies	☐ Program staff l**ess than 3** years of experience implementing the EB/EI strategies
3	**Outreach, Recruitment [2D]**	☐ Has a clear outreach and recruitment plan with three or more targeted strategies.	☐ Has a clear outreach and recruitment plan with at least two targeted strategies.	☐ There is an outreach and recruitment plan, but it utilizes passive strategies.	☐ Addresses outreach and recruitment, but there is no clear plan.
4	**Support and Resources [2D] – Funding Sources**	☐ Has four or more funding sources	☐ Has at least three funding sources	☐ Has at least two funding sources	☐ Has one other funding source
5	**Support and Resources [2D] – Cash and In-kind**	☐ Contribute cash and in-kind of more than 20% but less than 10%	☐ Contribute cash and in-kind of more than 10% but less than 20%	☐ Contribute more than 5% but less than 10%	☐ Contribute cash and in-kind of less than 5%
6	**Cost of the Program, Per Participant [2D]**	☐ Less than $999	☐ Between $1,000 - $1,999	☐ Between $2,000 -$3,999	☐ Between $4,000 - $5,999
7	**Collaboration [2E]**	☐ Strong commitment exists from five (5) or more external key system partners	☐ Support from less than five (5) external key system partner exists; deliverables from external partners	☐ Support from external partners exists some clarification or roles or	☐ Support from external partners exists but is weak or poorly defined; significant clarification

#	Element	10 POINTS	7 POINTS	4 POINTS	1 POINT
	Choose Only One for Each Element				
		deliverables from external partners and roles clearly identified	and roles clearly identified	commitment of resources needs to occur	and/or commitment needed
8	**Logic Model - Need (clearly documented evidence-based institutional or community need)**	☐ Need, if unmet, contributes to disparities; gap created or special population negatively impacted	☐ Statistical or anecdotal evidence of need is supported by a credible reference or citation	☐ Evidence offered for the need is incomplete or data is not specific enough	☐ Proposed services are not explicitly linked to a defined need
9	**Logic Model - Potential Population Served (scope and magnitude of grant; ability to affect change)**	☐ Sufficiently large population served to result in meaningful benefits; scope is systemic and promote PFC's goals	☐ Meaningful benefits to PFC, meets systemic goals, but only a small population and/or select area affected	☐ Unclear whether population affected would result in meaningful benefit to PFC additional information required	☐ Population affected by grant insufficient to justify time/ energy invested in developing proposal
10	**Logic Model – Output, Outcomes and Impacts**	☐ Outputs (products), outcomes (what will be done, findings used for) and impact (what is expected to happen from the evaluation "down the road") are clearly described and in measurable terms where appropriate and clearly related to the evaluation questions	☐ Outputs, outcomes or impact are somewhat not well described, not in measurable terms, or less than clearly related to the evaluation questions	☐ Outputs, outcomes and impacts are somewhat deficient in description and measurable terms, and not clearly related to the evaluation questions	☐ Outputs, outcomes and impacts are deficient in description and measurable terms and not clearly related to the evaluation questions

**

Recommended for funding ☐ **Yes at funding requested** ☐ **Yes, but at lower amount** ☐ **No**

Comments:

Board of Directors Meeting – President's Report
Thursday, November 30, 2017

A. **North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Update / Legislative Update**
  1. CHIP and MIECHV funding still in limbo. Secretary Cohen reports that NC fine at this point, but will have to revisit status if Congress does not act in December.
  2. Congressional Tax Reform Bills – NC Center for Nonprofits has done a comparison of the provisions affecting nonprofit organizations (https://www.ncnonprofits.org/sites/default/files/public_resources/Tax%20reform%20comparison.pdf). Some issues include:
     a. Changes in tax rates
     b. Child Tax Credit expansion with some restructuring
     c. Incentives for charitable giving could be significantly impacted
     d. Status of nonpartisanship of nonprofits
     e. Unrelated business income tax
     f. Private foundation excise tax, potential of taxing nonprofit endowments
     g. Repeal of the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act
  3. B-3 Council members appointed: Sen. Chad Barefoot, Sen. Michael Lee, Rep. Craig Horn, Rep. Josh Dobson, Kevin Campbell (President, Smart Kids Child Development Center), Susan Gates (Special Advisor on Education, SAS Institute), Dr. Linda White (Director of Elementary Education and Title I, Edenton-Chowan Schools), Dr. Sharon Ritchie (Senior Research Scientist, FPG, Director of First School Project), Dr. Nancy Brown (Early Childhood Expert, Board Member, NCPC), Elisha Freeman (Executive Director, Children & Family Resource Center), Cindy Watkins (President, NCPC) and Tracy Zimmerman, Executive Director, NC Early Childhood Foundation). Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary for DHHS and a new Associate Superintendent for Early Childhood Education at DPI will co-chair the Council.
  4. Plans underway for the 25th anniversary of Smart Start in 2018
B. **Community Child Abuse Prevention Plan** – Collaborative project with 25+ agencies, public and private partnerships. First community-wide plan in the state.
     a. Presented at County Commissioners Meeting 11/20/2017. Resolution of support for plan unanimously given.
     b. Plans to present to School Board as well as other local government entities.
C. **NC Diaper Bank – Mobile Unit** for Cumberland County Update
     a. Next event December 2, 9:30 – 11:30 am
     b. Recruiting volunteers to assist with monthly distributions
     c. Working with local businesses to set up "hot spot" locations for diaper drop-offs

PFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by public and private funds through Smart Start, NC Pre-K, tax-deductible donations, and grants.

a partner
in the
Smart Start
network

Be the Driving Force.

D. **Network for Southern Economic Mobility** –The first meeting was November 1-3 in Durham. The core team met on November 20 to debrief and move forward plans for the next two years. A coach is been assigned to the team to set goals and expand community input of supporting youth in Cumberland County in the career pipeline. There will be some overlap of work with the Pathways to Prosperity initiative.

E. **NC Justice Center, Pathways to Prosperity** Forum, November 18. Over 220 community members attended. Information from the forum is on the Pathways to Prosperity website (www.pathwaysforprosperity.org).
   a. The top five areas of focus were determined:
      i. Workforce/Industry Alignment
      ii. Parent Mentoring/Education
      iii. Education K-12
      iv. Early Childhood Education
      v. Affordable Housing
   b. Next Steps – Community Meetings will be set up for each area of focus in the next 30 days

F. **Opportunities for Corporate Grants**
   a. Staples 2 Million and Change Grant (inquiry stage – will be after first of year when next opportunity may be available)
   b. CarMax Regional Grant from the CarMax Foundation ($10,000, potentially up to 3 years; grant focus to augment planned Kindergarten transition work) – grant submitted. Should hear in December.

G. **Annual Celebration Update** – Guest speaker Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary DHHS.
   a. Attendance - 109
   b. Driving Force Awards – Kevin Brooks (Gotcha' Back School Kickoff), Individual; PNC Bank, Corporate
   c. Corporate Volunteer Awards – CarMax, Cintas, Kohl's of Fayetteville, Walmart Distribution Center
   d. Special Driving Force Award for helping improve literacy in our community – Barnes & Noble

H. **Forward March Conference**, October 24-25, 2017, Iron Mike Conference Center on Fort Bragg
   a. Good attendance. Focus on behavioral health services; session on integrated medicine and best practices for integrated behavioral health and application in our community.
   b. VIP dinner hosted here at PFC.
   c. Requests for Family Focus Guides and listings of behavioral and medical providers.
   d. Tentative dates for next year: November 1-2, 2018

Be the Driving Force.

I. **PFC United Way Campaign** – Our campaign ended November 20th
    a. Surpassed Campaign Goal of $8,000. Raised a total of $10,205.71
    b. Penny Wars raised a total of $955.35 towards this goal
    c. Collected 4,267 canned goods/food that was contributed to Fayetteville Urban Ministry
    d. Lively Amazing Race competition to build comradery and momentum for campaign

J. **ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Regional Meetings**
    a. The Department of Public Instruction is partnering with the NC Early Childhood Foundation to support LEAs and early childhood community leaders to develop the early learning components of their plans.
    b. Fayetteville meeting – January 23, 2018
    c. District Teams – must include Head Start Director, Title 1 Director or representative, Smart Start Local Partnership representative, Superintendent or representative from Superintendent's office. May include two additional members (i.e. principal, Child Care Administrator or teacher, NC Pre-K Committee, family member, higher education, etc.)

Be the Driving Force.