





**Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.**  
**North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 30, 2025 (12:07 pm to 12:30 pm)**  
***Be the Driving Force***



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christiana Adeyemi (arrived @ 12:24pm), Lonnie Ballard (arrived @ 12:10pm), Shona Bannister (D), Maria Ford (D)\*, Dr. Meredith Gronski, Van Gunter, Haja Jallow-Konrat (arrived @ 12:15pm), Amanda Klinck, Katie Lada\*, Maybelyn Rodriguez Laureano\*, Dr. Ayanna Richard\*, Heather Skeens, Betty Smith, Elizabeth Stiff (arrived @ 12:20pm) and Felicia Tyson-Johnson  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lisa Childers, Joe Deaton, Dr. Patricia Fecher, Taylor Mobley, Linda Vandevender, Darlisha Warren and Ebone Williams  
**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** None  
**NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dr. Eric Bracy and Brenda Jackson  
**NON-VOTING ATTENDEES:** Ar-Nita Davis, Michelle Downey, Belinda Gainey, Julanda Jett, Carole Mangum\*, Daniele Malvesti Petti, Mary Sonnenberg and Karen Staab  
**GUEST:** Jeanne Barnes\*

\*Attended virtually

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
I. Determination of NC Pre-K Quorum & Call to Order – Maria Ford, Co-Chair	<p>The hybrid meeting of the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee was held on October 30, 2025, beginning at 12:08 pm pursuant to prior written notice to each Committee member. Notification was made via email and meeting notices are located on the PFC website. Maria Ford, Co-Chair, chaired the meeting, determined that a quorum was not present and called the meeting to order to discuss items for information. Belinda Gainey, Executive Specialist, was the Secretary for the meeting and recorded the minutes.</p> <p>The meeting began with Section III. Updates.</p> <p>Quorum was obtained at 12:18pm. Maria Ford asked for a motion to approve the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee Agenda as written.</p> <p>Lonnie Ballard moved to approve the NC Pre-K Planning Committee Agenda as written. Haja Jallow-Konrat seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Co-Chair put the motion to a vote. All votes were unanimous. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.</p>	Motion Carried	None
II. Action* A. Minutes from August 21, 2025	<p>A. The minutes of the August 21, 2025 meeting were previously distributed and reviewed by the Committee.</p> <p>Betty Smith moved to approve North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Planning Committee Minutes from August 21, 2025 as presented. Shona Bannister seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion, the Co-Chair put the motion to a vote. All votes were unanimous. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.</p>	Motion Carried	None



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<p>III. Updates <sup>Δ</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Federal Shutdown Updates &amp; Impacts</li> <li>B. Fiscal Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September 2025 Financial Reports</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. SFY 2025-2026 Reporting Program Progress and Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updated 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance_ REVISED October 2025/Summary of Changes</li> <li>2. Application/Placement</li> <li>3. Recruitment Efforts</li> <li>4. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A. Mary Sonnenberg stated that PFC funding is continuing to flow. The County Commissioners called a special meeting last week. DSS and the Health Department updated on SNAP and WIC, and they had funding, through the end of October. Each organization encouraged individuals to continue to apply for benefits. A state budget has not been voted on. Brenda Jackson said at the Commissioners meeting that subsidy funds continue to flow; the LIHEAP, Low-Income Energy Assistance Program does not go into effect until December 1, 2025. Heather Skeens reported that the guaranteed allotment for those 65 and over will receive an automatic allotment in November; not sure if there will be any December funds available. WIC has funds through November 15. Notification was received from the USDA that SNAP, what is called FNS here locally, those benefits end on the October 31. Once the Government reopens, it will take time for the Division to upload the SNAP benefit allocation, therefore, benefits may be delayed. Medicaid is funded through the December 31. If this continues child care subsidy will be impacted. Lonnie Ballard stated that Head Start is also funded through December 31. There are some Head Start programs which will close since renewals cannot be renewed. A stop work order from the state has been received so some of the organizations have to furlough. At this point Head Start is unable to help people with bills, education, things of that nature. Lonnie informed the committee that if they would like to donate to the Food Bank, the best way to give is to donate via their website. Manpower is needed to help distribute food; resources are also low. They will host a virtual Food Drive; information will be shared. Mary stated that the flyer for the United Way 211 is included in the Board packet; this provides information to additional resources.</p> <p>Quorum has been reached. The committee began review of action items.</p> <p>B.1. Carole Mangum provided an overview of the September 2025 financials.</p> <p>C.1. Ar-Nita Davis reported that a couple of new staff has been hired to assist with the NC Pre-K. DCDEE revised the 2025-2026 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance. This was updated to reflect the Pathways, where sites can contain their level of license. Mary stated that there are three Pathways sites can use to obtain a license. A handout was included with the packet.</p> <p>C.2. Ar-Nita reported that child care allocation is 1414. Private sites have 891 slots filled, with 43 unfilled; Head Start is currently filled with 90 slots, CCS is filled with 433 slots. There are 188 children on the waitlist. There are 18 long term substitute lead teachers who have requested extensions. Two of these will be Lead Teachers. Site Monitoring is in process.</p> <p>C.3. Recruitment efforts are ongoing. Flyers are available for distribution.</p> <p>C.4. The strengths of the program are Community Collaboration and providing resources. Also, there is progress toward awareness by use of the Universal NC Pre-K application and program quality is the same across program types. Some barriers include the site reimbursement rate, eligible teachers, teacher pay, transportation, challenging behaviors and lack of experienced teachers for exceptional children.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>
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Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. - NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRANT

Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026

<b>LEGEND</b>	
09/30/2025	Internal Budget Adjustments
	Budget Increases per Amendment #

<b>FY 25/26 Revenues per Contract</b>	
\$ 8,931,970	NC Pre-k Grant Payments to Providers [Fund 206, Fund 210, Fund 319]
\$ -	
\$ 174,963	2% CCDF Quality/Admin Funds [Fund 328]
\$ -	2% CCDF ARPA Admin Funds [Fund 314]
\$ 507,440	6% Administrative Funds [Fund 211]
\$ 9,614,373	<b>Total NC Pre-k Grant</b>

as of NOVEMBER 2025	
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	
42%	58%

		FY 25/26 Budget					Remaining	% of	% of
Activity		09/30/2025	September	October	November	Y-T-D	Budget	Budget Expended	Available Funds
211	3323-999 Administrative Operations	\$159,440	\$ 17,468.64	\$ 16,624.30	\$ 11,056.54	\$ 67,782.18	\$ 91,657.82	43%	57%
	3323-001 CCR&R - Core	\$80,000	\$ 10,474.09	\$ 5,526.77	\$ 5,391.43	\$ 33,230.53	\$ 46,769.47	42%	58%
	3323-017 NC Pre-k Coordination (In-Direct)	\$268,000	\$ 19,330.78	\$ 31,927.71	\$ 22,411.90	\$ 113,831.71	\$ 154,168.29	42%	58%
	<b>Fund 211 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 507,440.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,273.51</b>	<b>\$ 54,078.78</b>	<b>\$ 38,859.87</b>	<b>\$ 214,844.42</b>	<b>\$ 292,595.58</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>58%</b>
206	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds	\$688,756	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 688,756.00	0%	100%
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds	\$254,745	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 254,745.00	0%	100%
	<b>Fund 206 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 943,501.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 943,501.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
210	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - State Funds	\$3,343,434	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,343,434.00	0%	100%
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - State Funds	\$1,236,613	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,236,613.00	0%	100%
	<b>Fund 210 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,580,047.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,580,047.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
319	2342-015 NC Pre-k Subsidy TANF (Direct - Child Reimbursement) - Federal Funds	\$2,726,738	\$ 374,599.00	\$ 775,290.00	\$ 627,181.00	\$ 1,777,070.00	\$ 949,668.00	65%	35%
	2348-015 NC Pre-K Non-TANF/CCDF - Federal Funds	\$681,684	\$ 102,098.00	\$ 258,205.00	\$ 199,797.00	\$ 560,100.00	\$ 121,584.00	82%	18%
	<b>Fund 319 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,408,422.00</b>	<b>\$ 476,697.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,033,495.00</b>	<b>\$ 826,978.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,337,170.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,071,252.00</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>31%</b>
328	3323-017 NC Pre-K CCDF Quality Funds-ADMIN-Federal Funds	\$116,000	\$ 10,797.81	\$ 9,679.44	\$ 8,423.47	\$48,979.70	\$67,020.30	42%	58%
328	3323-999 NC Pre-K CCDF Quality Funds-Administrative Operations	\$58,963	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 24,706.48	\$ 34,256.52	42%	58%
	<b>Fund 328 Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 174,963.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,797.81</b>	<b>\$ 14,679.44</b>	<b>\$ 13,123.47</b>	<b>\$ 73,686.18</b>	<b>\$ 101,276.82</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>58%</b>

<b>Total Budget Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 6,988,672.40</b>
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Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026

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as of NOVEMBER 2025	
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42%	58%

Activity	FY 25/26 Budget				Y-T-D	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Expended	% of Available Funds
	09/30/2025	September	October	November				

Unallocated NC Pre-k Revenues	\$ -				
<b>Total NC Pre-k Grant Expended</b>		\$ 539,768.32	\$ 1,102,253.22	\$ 878,961.34	\$ 2,625,700.60
Total State Funds	\$ 6,030,988.00				
Total Federal Funds	\$ 3,583,385.00				
<b>Total NC Pre-K Grant</b>	<b>\$ 9,614,373.00</b>				



## NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting - December 2025

Date: <b>Thursday, December 4, 2025</b> Location: <b>WebEx Meeting</b>		Meeting Time: <b>10:00 am – 12:30 pm</b>
<b>Purpose:</b> To provide NC Pre-K programmatic updates and guidance for the 2025-2026 program year.		
<b>Welcome</b>	10:00 am -10:10 am	<b>Lorena González</b>
<b>DCDEE Update</b> • New Deputy Director Introduction	10:10 am – 10:20 am	<b>Jenna Ramsey</b>
<b>Ice Breaker</b>	10:20 am – 10:30 am	<b>Patricia McCarter</b>
<b>Programmatic Updates</b> • Enrollment Data • Slot Allocation Adjustments • Long-term Substitutes - Extension Request Reminders • In-person Meeting Survey Results	10:30 am – 10:50 am	<b>Janessa Nieves</b>
<b>Budget Unit Updates</b>	10:50 am – 11:05 am	<b>Miladys Ramos</b>
<b>Contracts Unit Updates</b>	11:05 am – 11:25 am	<b>Candice Bailey</b>
<b>NC Pre-K Committee Meeting</b> January/February Action Items	11:25 am – 11:35 am	<b>Fran Minton</b>
<b>NC Pre-K Site Monitoring/Contractor Monitoring</b>	11:35 am – 11:45 am	<b>Jennifer Griffith</b>
<b>Finch Assessment Overview</b>	11:45 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Kim Bynum-Powell</b>
<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	<b>DCDEE Staff</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	12:30 pm	

# North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Planning Committee Meeting

## NC Pre-K Updates

Thursday, December 11, 2025

### III.

#### B. SFY 2025–2026 Reporting: Program Progress and Updates

1. 2025–2026 Site Allocation/Child Placement (Allocation: 1,414)
  - a) Applications Received via SchoolMint: 2385
  - b) Placed: 1,462 (*Does not mean served*)
  - c) Waitlist: 162
2. Recruitment Efforts \*
3. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery
4. 2025–2026 NC Pre-K Site Monitoring by NC Pre-K contracting agencies must conduct site visits before January 15, 2026.
  - a) NC Pre-K Sites-55
  - b) NC Pre-K Sites-26
5. Reallocation of Slots: Reduction of NC Pre-K Sites: PFC is requesting that Sites that are unable to fill their current allocation reduce before January 1, 2026.
6. All 18 Long-Term Substitute Lead Teacher Extension Approved by DCDEE for 12 weeks.
7. December 2025 Winter NC Pre-K Statewide Meeting Updates (FINCH: Finch game-based assessment was added to the Teaching Startgies GOLD observational assessment. Finch provides two **Foundational**, **Formative**, and **Fun Interactive Child** assessment tools that automatically feed data directly into GOLD.) **\*See Attachment Agenda**

#### C. SFY 2026-2027 Universal Pre-K Application Open Enrollment,

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

#### D. SFY 2027-2028 NC Pre-K Site Selection Process Begins June 2026.

1. Site Selection Sub-Committee Selected at NC Pre-K Planning Committee (June 2026)
2. Site Selection Recommendations to the NC Pre-K Committee (October 2026)

#### F. Events and Meetings

1. NC Pre-K PLC 2025–2026 2nd Meeting – **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**
2. NC Pre-K Café Discussion on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025.**
3. NC Pre-K Site Administrator's Monthly Meeting, Zoom-**Thursday, December 18, 2025.**