

CCR&R Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Quorum (50%) = 6 (Total Board Members = 12)

Thursday, September 10, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

HYBRID (Charles Morris Conference Room and Zoom)

Be the Driving Force to meet our roles and responsibilities as a non-profit Board by:

➤ *Providing Oversight* ➤ *Ensuring Adequate Resources* ➤ *Establishing a Strategic Direction*

- I. **Welcome, Determination of Quorum, & Call to Order – Dr. Rondell Bennett, Chair**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. June, 4, 2026 * Document Included in Packet
- III. **President's Report – Mary Sonnenberg, President ***
 - A. General Ways to Support PFC – Opportunities to Get Involved * Document Included in Packet
- IV. **Financial Updates – Carole Mangum, Grants Manager * Document Included in Packet**
 - A. Financial Update – as of July 31, 2026
- V. **Neurodivergent Children Resource & Support Workgroup – Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs**
- VI. **Department Report & Matters for Discussion – Julanda Jett, Vice President of Programs**

Department Updates: *Document Included in Packet

 - A. Lead for our Territories to include counties
 - B. Workforce update
 1. The collaboration with FTCC
 2. Funding from the County for our workforce Development
 3. Childcare Aware collaboration
 - C. SOAR Community Coalition – **Wanda Wesley, CCS Federal Programs/PreK Department**
- VII. **Division Reports – *Document Included in Packet**
 - A. Family Services- **Ar-Nita Davis, Programs Manager of Family Services**
 1. NC Pre-Kindergarten Program
 2. Consumer Education & Referral
 - B. Provider Services – **Sheila Rowe, Program Manager of Early Care & Education**
 1. Early Care & Education Coaches
 2. Professional Development
 3. Learning Library
 4. Kaleidoscope Play & Learn
- VIII. **Adjournment: Next Meeting – Thursday, December 10, 2026 in Charles Morris Confer. Room**

Upcoming Meetings and Holidays

MEETING	MEETING DATE	MEETING TIME
Planning & Evaluation	August 4, 2026	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Family Connects	August 4, 2026	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Community Engagement & Development (CED)	August 6, 2026	8:30 am – 10:30 am
Facility & Tenant	August 17, 2026	11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Human Resource	August 18, 2026	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Finance	August 20, 2026	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Board of Directors (& NC Pre-K Planning)	August 27, 2026	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Board Development	September 9, 2026	9:00 am – 10:30 am
CCR&R	September 10, 2026	9:00 am – 11:00 am
Executive	September 24, 2026	9:00 am – 11:00 am

EVENTS	DATE	LOCATION
Little Land: Down on the Farm	September 4-13, 2026	Crown Expo
Kindness Awards	Week of September 21, 2026	Various
PFC Fall Festival	October 29, 2026	PFC
Grilled Cheese Festival	Saturday, November 7, 2026	Dirt Bag Ales & Taproom
Giving Tuesday Campaign	November 23 – December 1, 2026	Online

HOLIDAY/CLOSURES	DATE CLOSED
Optional Mental Health Day	Friday, September 4, 2026
Labor Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving	Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27, 2026

Agency: Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.

Receipt Voucher for In-Kind Contribution of Non-Professional Volunteer Services

Name of Volunteer **Month/Year**

Address **Project Name**

City/State/Zip **Organization**

Home Phone **Work Phone**

Detailed Record of Volunteer Hours Worked																			
Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		Total Hours	Hourly Rate*	Value
Volunteer Hours																	0	\$34.70	\$ 0
Date	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Total Hours	Hourly Rate*	Value
Volunteer Hours																	0	\$34.70	\$ 0
TOTAL VALUE																			\$ 0

On the back of this page, please describe the type of volunteer services performed on each of the days noted above.

Attestation: By my signature below, I certify that I served as a volunteer to this organization for the hours as noted above and did not receive compensation for my services.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval: By my signature below, I acknowledge receipt of the above-mentioned volunteer services.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Under legislation approved by the NC General Assembly in 2008, non-professional volunteer services will be valued at the statewide average wage rate as calculated from data compiled by the Employment Security Commission in the Employment and Wages in North Carolina Annual Report. The most recent report available posts this rate at \$34.70 per hour.***

Description of Services

[illegible]

President's Report
NC Pre-K Committee & Board of Directors Meeting
Charles Morris Conference Room
Thursday, August 27, 2026

A. NCPC/DCDEE Updates / Legislative Updates

1. NCPC

- This month's special stories focus on **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)**.
- The **Smart Start RFP Allocation Bidder's Meeting for the next 3-year cycle is scheduled for September 15th**. Applications are due November 17th. The review process will begin in January 2027. Board and committee members are encouraged to consider participating as reviewers.
- NCPC received funding in the FY27 budget for Mental and Behavioral Health Services, Pilots for Child Care Work Force Academies, and DPIL. The Smart Start Network Legislative Tracking Report for the 2026 Session is attached.
- DPIL – There is no longer a waiting list and the NCPC system is open to take applications. We currently are serving **8,542** children in conjunction with the United Way of Cumberland County with 175 in processing (100 additional overnight).
- On August 25, news of Dolly Parton's death was announced by her family. Her legacy will continue in North Carolina with each book that is delivered to the homes of children right here in Cumberland County and all over the state. Since 2008, the program has served over 50,000 children in Cumberland County. *The family has requested donations in her memory be directed to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, providing links to all of the local partners.*

2. DCDEE

- **Child Care Resources Inc. announced awards for the territories listed in the RFA for Child Care Resource and Referral Services for the South-Central Region.** PFC was awarded the grant for Greater Cumberland (Cumberland and Hoke), Sandhills (Anson, Montgomery, & Richmond), and Lumber River (Robeson, Bladen, & Scotland). Contracting is in process, initial training has occurred on the database Upfront, and Julanda Jett is coordinating initial visits with staff to all counties covered in our proposal.
- **NC Pre-K**
 - The contract from DCDEE for NC Pre-K for the new fiscal was executed July 28.
 - Contract preparation for providers is in process, with most providers in contract. This is the third year of a 3 year-contract cycle.
 - **NC Pre-K Let's Get Enrolled – Applications for the 2026-2027 school year continue to be processed.** Please share the URL: **LetsGetEnrolled.com**. Contact Ar-Nita Davis (adavis@ccpfc.org) with any questions.
 - The Site Selection Committee is gearing up for reviewing applications for the next 3-year cycle.

3. State and Federal Level – Lawmakers in Washington and Raleigh are on vacation or campaigning this month.

- The State budget has been certified. Funding is now flowing to Departments so that contracts can be developed for any new funding.
- For additional updates, refer to the NC Center for Nonprofits' [August 21 Public Policy update](#).

4. Local Level

- FTCC approached the Programs Department to collaborate with their Lead Teacher Academy Pilot. The Academy started this week. Sylvia Murphy & Mary Anders are providing the training.

- The Cumberland County Literacy Council celebrated its 1st Year Anniversary this week. The Literacy Council is a collaborated effort spearheaded by the United Way of Cumberland County. Julanda Jett is PFC's representative on the Literacy Council.
- Cape Fear Valley Health is submitting a Blue Cross/Blue Shield grant focused on Partnerships Supporting Parent and Caregiver Well-Being. PFC provided a support letter to participate in the Southeastern Family Wellness Collaborative should Cape Fear Valley Health be awarded the grant. This initiative aligns with family engagement across multiple programmatic areas at PFC.

B. Grant Opportunities/Updates/RFPs

- PFC staff met with the iParametrics, the consultants for the City of Fayetteville's ARPA grant, on August 25 for an audit and review of progress on the two activities funded (**Family Connects and Workforce Development Program**). All funding must be expended by December 31, 2026.
- **Cumberland County Government awarded PFC \$218,700 for a Community Grant** focused on Family Connects and Early Childhood Work Force Development. The contract has been executed.

C. Building Sustainability and Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning

- Representatives for the **Building Sustainability Work Group**: Met on August 12 to review options to bring to the August Board Meeting. A motion is being presented to the Board for next steps.
- **Organizational Sustainability & Succession Planning**: Mary Sonnenberg met with Jessica Lowery-Clark from Robeson County on August 2 to review the summaries (Non-negotiables & SWOT) and prepare presentations to each respective Board of Directors. Upon review of the documents and discussion, it was agreed to present to both Boards a recommendation to continue investigation with outside facilitation and legal counsel to gain additional information, have additional advice on due diligence, and to come up with viable plan options.

D. Staff Updates

- Teams are evaluating and interviewing candidates for the NC Pre-K Program Specialist and the Early Literacy & Play Coordinator positions. We are not currently accepting new applications for these vacancies.
- With the award of the South-Central Region CCR&R territories contract, we will be recruiting some additional coach positions. The job descriptions updates have not been finalized and these postings are not currently live. We anticipate having the positions posted the week of August 31.

E. Events/Recognitions

- **Kindness Awards – September 2026**. Nominations have closed. Award presentations to honorees will be during the week of September 21. We need Board members to assist with award presentations. If you haven't volunteered yet, email Tamiko Colvin, Community Engagement & Partnership Specialist at tcolvin@ccpfc.org. Kindness Awards are done in conjunction with Smart Start Month in September.
- **Little Land on the Farm 2026 at the County Fair – Save the dates September 4 – 13, 2026**. Let us know if you can volunteer. **The Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the Expo Center will be Friday, September 4 at 4:30 pm**. We welcome Board members to attend the Ribbon Cutting ceremony with staff.
- **Chuy's Friends and Family Days will be September 25-26**. We have been chosen as the proceeds recipient for the launch of their restaurant which is at the site of the former Bahama Breeze location. More information to follow.
- **Grilled Cheese Festival – Save the date for Saturday, November 7, 2026**. Consider sponsorship, table sponsorship, vendor, and volunteer opportunities. Contact dmalvesti@ccpfc.org. **Presale tickets are on sale at <https://ccpfc.org/cheesy/>**.
- Students in the Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) at FTCC will host a book drive on campus during National Book Month in October to collect new and gently used children's books for PFC. Dates for the book drive are **October 1-31**.
- **Boo-Levard Office Trick or Treat October 29 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Hotdog plate sale 11:30-1:30 and 5-7. Things you can do: Donate bags of candy or prepackaged snacks, purchase a plate for lunch, and/or join us with the families. We already have 25 registrations with 40 plus children planning to come!**
- **Little Land 2027 – Save the date for Saturday, March 13, 2027, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Crown Expo Center.**

Special Story: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) – United Way of Cumberland County

One year ago, United Way of Cumberland County set out with a simple but ambitious vision: introduce every newborn in Cumberland County to the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library before leaving the hospital. Today, that vision has become a reality.

In the last quarter of Fiscal Year 25-26, representatives from The Dollywood Foundation visited Cumberland County to recognize Cape Fear Valley Health and Womack Army Medical Center for their leadership in creating a hospital partnership that has become a model for expanding early childhood literacy. At nearly the same time, North Carolina announced plans to begin opening Smart Start registrations to families on the waiting list, allowing even more children to begin receiving books during their earliest years. Together, these milestones affirmed that the work accomplished over the past year is creating lasting opportunities for families throughout our community.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful outcomes has been watching community members embrace the mission of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Local children's author and Literacy Ambassador Tashonda "Shon" McCormick has become a passionate advocate for early literacy by volunteering at DPIL Storytimes, encouraging parents to read with their children, and creating engaging educational content through Shon's Stories. Her enthusiasm reflects how the program is inspiring others to invest their own time and talents in helping children discover the joy of books.

The importance of this work is reinforced by recent international research involving more than 86,000 families across five countries. The study found that children participating in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library are read to more frequently, demonstrate stronger emerging literacy skills, and experience richer home literacy environments than children who are not enrolled.

Looking back over the past year, the greatest accomplishment has not been the recognition received, the sponsorships secured, or even the number of books distributed. It has been watching a shared vision unite hospitals, educators, businesses, volunteers, community leaders, and families around one simple belief: every child deserves the opportunity to fall in love with reading.

The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has always been about more than delivering books. It is about delivering possibility. Every book placed into a child's hands is an invitation for a parent or caregiver to pause, read together, ask questions, laugh, imagine, and create memories that may last a lifetime. Those quiet moments, repeated night after night in homes across Cumberland County, are where the true impact of this program begins.

As United Way of Cumberland County reflects on the first full year of being a Direct Service Provider, we are grateful to Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, The Dollywood Foundation, our hospital partners, community sponsors, volunteers, and the many families who have embraced the program. Together, we are doing far more than building home libraries—we are helping build stronger families, kindergarten readiness, and a culture where reading is valued from the very beginning of a child's life.

*The announcement of Dolly Parton's death on August 25 by her family has impacted people in ways we could not have imagined...not just in our country but all over the world. In the end the "Book Lady's" legacy will continue every time a child receives a book in the mail. Her music made her an icon. The way she lived made her a role model and gave us hope. Her commitment to children and families of all ages will continue to have a lasting impact for generations to come. The Partnership for Children of Cumberland County is honored to help continue her legacy alongside the United Way of Cumberland County.



Smart Start

**Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report
2026 Legislative Session**

2026 NC Appropriations Act

Citations and Title	Synopsis	Funding
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Budget Fund: 132101 9D.7 (Budget Bill)	Provides funds to support the statewide administration of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Includes a reporting requirement. The revised net appropriation for this program is \$13.0 million in FY 2026-27 total	\$1 million, recurring for FY 2026-27 \$5 million, nonrecurring for FY 2026-27 Amount above is in addition to \$7 million recurring for total of \$13 million for 2026-27 \$6 million, nonrecurring and \$1 million, recurring in 2026 Appropriations Bill; \$6 million, recurring later decreased by \$1 million, nonrecurring in 2026 Budget Technical Corrections Bill. See Section 3.6 in Technical Corrections Bill- SL 2026-42



Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report 2026 Legislative Session

		, - Adjust funding/Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Behavioral Health Services Budget Fund: 134000 (Committee Report) Section 9D.9 (Budget Bill)	Provides funds for Smart Start Local Partnerships to expand mental and behavioral health services for children, families, and staff in child care facility settings and out-of-school programs. NCPC shall spend the funds in the following budget codes: PSC 5415 Health Care Access and Support PSC 5505 Parent Education PSC 3125 Quality Child Care PSC 5509 Parents as Teachers NCPC to distribute funds to Smart Start Local Partnerships, as determined by NCPC. Funds do not revert and remain available until expended. Includes reporting requirement.	\$7.3 million, nonrecurring for FY 2026-27
Child Care Workforce Pilot Program Budget Fund: 131207 Section 9D.8 (Budget Bill)	Provides funds for Smart Start Local Partnerships to develop and operate child care workforce academies in Johnston and Wayne counties as well as ten other local partnerships to be determined in collaboration with the NCPC and North Carolina Community Colleges System Office. Includes reporting requirements. SECTION 9D.8.(l)	\$1.5 million, nonrecurring Funds do not revert at end of fiscal year and shall remain available for use



Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report 2026 Legislative Session

	DCDEE required to establish a Provisional Early Childhood Credential for individuals who are 16 or 17 years of age and preparing to work in licensed child care programs in this State. SECTION 9D.8.(m) Applicable to individuals under SECTION 9D.8.(l) Community College System, DPI, NC CAP, and DCDEE shall collaborate to create pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways aligned with the Provisional Early Childhood Credential with this credential enabling those individuals to work in any out-of-school and summer programs. SECTION 9D.8.(n) Step progression from Provisional Early Childhood Credential to full North Carolina Early Childhood Credential to employment as a lead teacher.	
Bidding Provision Section 9D.6(e) (Budget Bill)	Bidding Thresholds changed below. SECTION 9D.6.(e) Bidding. – NCPC and all local partnerships shall use competitive bidding practices in contracting for goods and services on contract amounts as follows: (1) For amounts of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) or less, the procedures specified by a written policy as developed by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (2) For amounts greater than fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) but less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), three written quotes. (3) For amounts of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or more but less than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), a request for proposal process with solicitation in appropriate venues, including, but not limited to, websites,	



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	major newspaper portals, or other options to ensure a strong competitive process. (4) For amounts of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) or more, a request for proposal process and advertising in a major newspaper.	
CCDF - Subsidy Reimbursement Rates Budget Fund: 133600 Section 9D.4 (Budget Bill)	Budgets receipts from the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant to increase the reimbursement rates for providers of subsidized child care services based on the NC Child Care Market Rate Study 2023 Final Report, implement a statewide rate floor based on the NC Child Care Market Rate Study 2021 Final Report, and to decrease waitlists. Provisions become effective October 1, 2026, not July 1, 2026, according to change in technical corrections bill, HB 56, Section 3.2	\$97 million, recurring for FY 2026-27 These are federal funds. Total revised requirements for the Child Care Subsidy program are \$593.1 million in FY 2026-27.
CCDF - Quality and Availability Initiatives Budget Fund: 131203	Adjusts funds from the federal CCDF block grant for quality and availability initiatives. New initiatives include an approved Early Education Information System project and a Family Child Care Home Direct Support pilot program to help increase the supply of family child care homes in NC.	\$5.8 million, recurring Total CCDF block grant funding for quality and availability initiatives is \$67.8 million in FY 2026-27.



Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report 2026 Legislative Session

Use of Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds/Family Child Care Home Direct Support Pilot Section 9M.2.(a) (Budget Bill)	Family Child Care Home Direct Support Funds allocated in equal amounts to three councils of governments: one of which is in a county from the Coastal Plain Region, the Mountain Region, and the Piedmont Region, as those regions are defined in G.S. 143B-1373(a) to establish a two-year pilot program coordinated by those councils of governments to build child care capacity in those counties. Each designated council of government shall issue a request for application (RFA) for a vendor to administer the pilot program, and each vendor selected shall have experience providing support and assistance to early child care providers. Includes reporting requirements for Council of Governments participating in the program.	\$3.25 million, nonrecurring for FY 2026-27 (funds from CCDF Quality and Availability Initiative Above under CCDF - Quality and Availability Initiatives Budget Fund: 131203)
Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) Budget Fund: 132105	Provides funds for Triple P for assistance to parents with child rearing. The revised total requirements for this program are \$3.3 million in FY 2026-27.	\$200,000 nonrecurring for FY 2026-27
Eliminate General Fund Appropriation to the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Budget Fund: 132105	Eliminates the recurring funding for NFP, which is a nonprofit that provides in-home services to first time mothers. These funds will be re-allocated to Local Health Departments under Division of Public Health for activities authorized under the General-Aid-to-Counties Agreement Addendum	
Department of Public Health (DPH): Report on Recommendations for a Plan to improve maternal	April 1, 2027, report by DPH to state legislature on recommendations for a plan to establish maternal levels of care and to update neonatal levels of care to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates within NC.	



smart start

**Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report
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and infant levels of care in NC	DPH must consult with maternal and infant health stakeholders on recommendations.	
SECTION 9H.2. (Budget Bill)		
<i>NC Department of Insurance:</i> Childcare Providers Insurance Study Budget Fund: 101601	Provides funds to study insurance coverage options for North Carolina child care providers. Includes a reporting requirement due May 1, 2027, from NC Department of Insurance to NC General Assembly	\$350,000 Nonrecurring for FY 2026-27
Section 32.2 (Budget Bill)		
Medicaid	\$1 billion allocation towards funding Medicaid, including \$847 million for Medicaid rebase.	Includes Medicaid Rebase - \$847.2 Million
Medicaid Rebase Adjusts Medicaid funding for projected changes in enrollment	Provides funds to investigate Medicaid waste and abuse and a reporting requirement.	
Medicaid Waste and Abuse Budget Fund: 100701		
Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP)	HOP was suspended last summer due to lack of funding. This program connects rural Medicaid enrollees to community resources that address non-medical needs, including access to food, housing, and transportation.	\$25 million, nonrecurring for FY 2026-27



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SNAP Administrative Cost Funding Offset Budget Fund: 133508	Provides funds to offset the loss of federal receipts due to changes to the administrative cost-sharing requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) resulting from Public Law 119-21 (H.R. 1). Also provides funds for new staff that will provide assistance to SNAP to provide on-site support for the implementation of operational improvements in an effort to reduce the State's SNAP payment error rate (PER) in response to program changes under H.R. 1.	Since the actual SNAP benefit is federally funded, there is not one single line item. Monies appropriated in different line items under NC Department of Health and Human for system updates, staff, and error rate reduction.
2026 Legislation (to include bills still pending)		
Bill Number and Title	Synopsis	Bill Sponsor(s)
Session Law 2026-1 Conference Report Medicaid & HHS Adjustments/Other Critical Needs	Appropriates \$319 million, nonrecurring for 2025-2026 to address the Medicaid shortfall as requested by Governor Stein and DHHS. Medicaid funded for remainder of FY 2025-26 Directs Division of Health Benefits to develop a plan for improved health outcomes, program integrity, cost-savings, and efficiency measures in the Medicaid program and an annual accounting report of all improper Medicaid payments and expenditures to the state legislature.	Potts, Reeder, Campell



Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report 2026 Legislative Session

	Requires DHHS to refer any applicant or recipient for which citizenship or satisfactory immigration status could not be verified to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Requires the Office of the State Auditor (Auditor) to conduct a performance audit of the administration of the North Carolina Medicaid program Establishes the NC Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education with members to be appointed by the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President Pro Temp. The Commission will study the NC 's infrastructure and implementation of public education. Appropriates funds to the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) for recipients of scholarships for the children of wartime veterans and provides funding for several other state agencies.	
Session Law 2026-19 (S 153 NC Border Protection Act Section 5.9 of NC 2026 Appropriations Act addresses applicable Veto Override Technical Corrections	An act to protect the borders of the State by (i) requiring cooperation with federal immigration officials, (ii) ensuring state funds are being used for the benefit of persons in the state legally, (iii) creating additional incentives for local governments to comply with state laws related to immigration, and (iv) prohibiting unc constituent institutions from becoming sanctuary universities. DHHS shall develop and implement a plan to review and update the eligibility criteria for all State-funded benefits to ensure that noncitizens determined to be residing in the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive State-funded benefits.	Berger, Daniel, B. Newton



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**Smart Start Network Legislation Tracking Report
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"State-funded benefits" includes any of the following programs administered by or through a contract with the DHHS but excludes any benefits or services available under these programs to help eligible beneficiaries access food or meals:

- (1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Work First).
- (2) Early Intervention Services.
- (3) Rental or housing assistance programs.
- (4) Medication assistance programs.
- (5) **Child care subsidy programs.**
- (6) Foster care and adoption assistance payments.
- (7) Refugee assistance programs.
- (8) Low Income Energy Assistance.
- (9) Work First Cash Assistance and other employment and self-sufficiency training and services.
- (10) Medicaid.
- (11) Single-stream funding.
- (12) Inpatient psychiatric hospital services (3-Way Bed Contracts).
- (13) The State-County Special Assistance program.
- (14) Programs funded by the Home and Community Care Block Grant.
- (15) Caregiver Support programs.

NCPC and network tracking since state-funded benefits include child care subsidy.



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H171 Equality in State Agencies/Prohibition on DEI	An act eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in state and local government and clarifying the penalty provisions of the state budget act and local government budget and fiscal control act. There was a veto override in the House, but still pending in the Senate. Section 5.9 of the 2026 Appropriations Act includes a special provision on veto override technical corrections applicable to House Bill 171. NCPC and network tracking since Smart Start receives a substantial amount of state funding.	B. Jones, N. Jackson, Lowery, Eddins
H368 Revise Child Passenger Restraint Systems Law or Child Safety Seats	The Child Safety Seats Bill, House Bill 368, may mean North Carolina could soon have new child motor vehicle passenger safety rules that put more emphasis on the height of a child than on their weight. The bill passed the House and is currently in the Senate Rules and Operations Committee. Currently, in Senate Rules and Operations Committee,	Loftis, Penny, Ross, Scott
H1200 Tax Free Families Essentials Day	The proposed legislation will repeal sales taxes on baby wipes, diapers, feminine, and other hygiene products. Currently, in Senate Rules and Operations Committee.	Schietzett, Rhyne, Campbell, Chesser
2026-40 Public Workforce Modernization Act	2026-40 Modernize and simplify the state human resources system.	Corbin, Johnson, Lee,



Smart Start

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	Includes expanding paid parental leave policies for state, public school, and community college employees to 12 weeks for full-time workers and gives a prorated amount to part-time workers. Previously, state employees giving birth received eight weeks of parental leave	
SL 2026-42 2026 Budget Technical Corrections	Makes technical corrections to the 2026 state budget. See Section 3.2., adjust implementation date for child care rate changes and Section 3.6., adjust funding for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for FY 2026-27.	

General Ways to Support PFC – Opportunities to get involved

Community Engagement & Fund/Friend Raising Efforts

- **Follow PFC on Social Media** — Stay connected and help broaden our reach.
- **Share PFC Social Posts** — Amplify visibility by sharing posts across personal and organizational networks.
- **Promote Events Within Your Networks** — Deepen community reach by sharing event information widely.
- **Distribute Marketing Materials** — Share flyers, graphics, and promotional materials in your circles.
- **Become a Sponsor** — Provide financial or in-kind support for PFC events.
- **Connect Us to a Sponsor** — Introduce PFC to potential sponsors or partners.
- **Volunteer at Events** — Serve on-site during activities, engagement stations, or logistics.
- **Recruit Volunteers** — Engage networks to help secure volunteers for event operations.
- **Speak Out About Your Support** — Share why you volunteer and encourage others to support PFC.

Community Engagement Event-Specific Asks

Little Land: Down on the Farm (Sept 4–13)

- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote Event Within Your Networks
- Volunteer at Event
- Recruit Volunteers

Kindness Awards – Smart Start Month (Week of Sept 21)

- Nominate a Kindness Award Honoree
- Volunteer to attend a Kindness Award Honoring
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote Event Within Your Networks

Grilled Cheese Festival (Nov 7, 1–5 PM)

- **Purchase GCF Tickets** — Support the fundraiser. **Ticket Link:** ccpfc.org/cheesy/
- **Recruit Food Trucks for GCF** — We need **four additional food trucks**.
- **Secure an Event Sponsor for GCF**
- **Recruit Table Sponsors for GCF**
- **Volunteer at Events**
- **Sponsor the event on some level**
- **Recruit Volunteers**
- **Share PFC Social Posts**
- **Promote Event Within Your Networks**
- **Distribute Marketing Promotional Materials**

Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive (Mid-Nov to Mid-Dec)

- Purchase a Book During the Book Drive — Support literacy initiatives and thank BN for over a decade of partnership.
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote Events Within Your Networks

Giving Tuesday Campaign (Nov 23–Dec 1)

- Donate to the Giving Tuesday Campaign
- Speak Out About Your Support & Why Others Should Give
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote Event Within Your Networks

Little Land: BIG Play for Families (March 13, 2027)

- Volunteer at Event
- Recruit Volunteers
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote Event Within Your Networks
- Connect Us to a Sponsor
- Become a Sponsor

Programs Events and Activities

Kick Off Conference for Child Care Providers: September 2026 date TBD

- Volunteer at Event
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Recruit Speakers
- Welcome Group at Opening Session

Promote Prevent Child Abuse Month in April: Event after Executive Committee March 18, 2027

- Participate in event – Activity TBD
- Share PFC Social Posts

Provider Appreciation Gala: May 1, 2027 from 6-8 pm. Location TBD

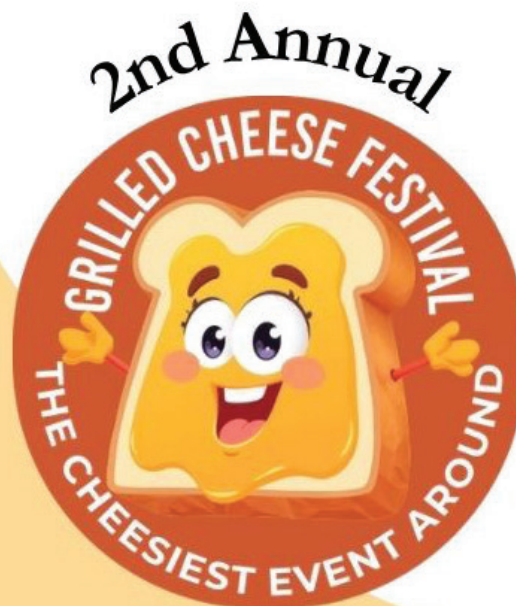
- Welcome Guests
- Volunteer during, Event, set up, break down
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Donate door prizes

Library Events – throughout year. More info to come

- Be a story time reader
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote events

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn

- Volunteer at KPL Sessions
- Share PFC Social Posts
- Promote within your networks



*Proceeds benefit
essential services
and programs that
help children and
families succeed.*

Who will be **THE BIG CHEESE?**

It's **NACHO** average competition -
it's **GOUDA** be great!



**SCAN FOR
TICKETS!**

- Grilled Cheese Competition
- Craft Beer Pairings
- Family Friendly
- Vendor Market
- Live DJ Five Star Entertainment

Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities

Get Your Tickets Today!
ccpfc.org/cheesy/



**Saturday,
November 7, 2026
1:00–5:00 PM**

**DIRTBAG ALES BREWERY
& TAPROOM**
5435 Corporation Dr, Hope Mills, NC
28348





Partnership FOR CHILDREN

OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY



YOU'RE INVITED TO

BOO-LEVARD

TWO EVENTS | ONE SPOOKTACULAR DAY



HOT DOG

FUNDRAISER
EVENT

11:30 AM–1:30 PM

&

5:00 PM–7:00 PM



**NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

**\$10
ADULTS**

Delicious hot dogs,
chips, dessert and a drink!

**\$7
KIDS**

&

FREE

OFFICE
TRICK-OR-TREAT

5:00 PM–7:00 PM



**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

Registration helps us make sure
we have plenty of treats for
all our little ghouls and goblins!



TRICK-OR-TREAT REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Scan the QR code or visit the link below
to register for the **BOO-LEVARD**
Trick-or-Treat event.



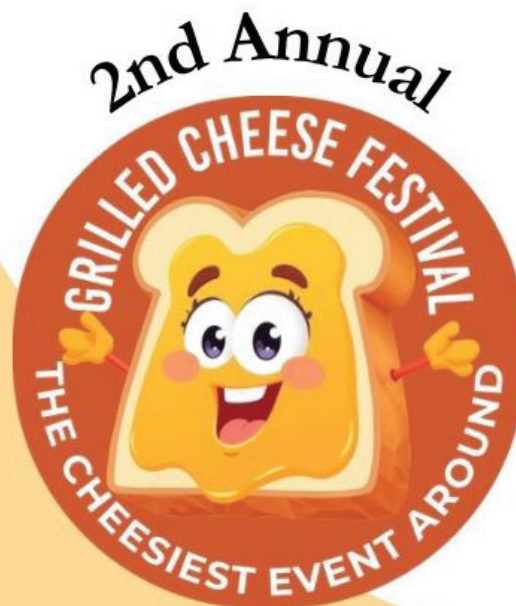
REGISTER HERE:

<https://qrco.de/BOO-LEVARD>

≧ THURSDAY ≦
OCTOBER 29, 2026



351 Wagoner Dr Ste 200, Fayetteville, NC 28303



*Proceeds benefit
essential services
and programs that
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28348



PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, INC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Board Responsibility

The review of the financial statements is the responsibility of the Committee and Board Members of PFC.

The detailed financial reports have been provided to you via email or via the PFC website and will be provided electronically during the meeting.

July 31, 2026

ONLY THE HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS NEED TO BE DISCUSSED.

1 Balance Sheet

- a. The cash balances; investments and liabilities are at the anticipated amounts and are sufficient for the current needs.
- b. Since all of our grants are now reimbursement-based, managing the monthly cashflow has become more critical than in past years.
- c. NCPC reminded the local partnerships that they are managing Smart Start cashflow differently.
"Historically all LPs received one and a half months' worth of the initial NCPC-LP contract amount (12.5%) as an initial advance. In recent years, NCPC would advance about one additional month's worth of the contract total each month going forward, which led to significant SS cash-on-hand for several LPs during the FY. Instead, NCPC intends to calculate monthly payments with greater consideration of LPs' reported expenditures and spending patterns. The initial advance provided in July will remain on hand with the LP for the time being to provide operational cashflow." [from NCPC's September 2025 Dollars & Sense Newsletter .]
- d. Historically at yearend and in the first quarter, funds are at its lowest until grant reimbursements are received during the first quarter of the new fiscal year. Cashflow and payment of expenditures will be monitored closely.

2 Smart Start Grant [State Funds]

- a. PFC's Smart Start grant budgets are reflected at 100% of full allocation effective July 1, 2026.
- b. The total allocation for FY26-27 at 100% is \$6,832,478, including DSS and WAGE\$.
- c. In July 2026, PFC reverted \$654,395.67 of unspent FY25-26 Smart Start Services funds to NCPC.

3 NC Pre-Kindergarten Grant [State and Federal Funds]

- a. PFC is in full contract with DCDEE effective July 1, 2026.
- b. The total FY26-27 contract is \$9,757,502 which consists of \$3,583,385 of federal funds and \$6,174,117 of state funds.
- c. Historically this distribution of state and federal funds is amended by DCDEE before or at yearend.
- d. The single audit threshold increased from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 effective October 1, 2024.
- e. Due to the amount of federal funds received, the Partnership **will be** audited extensively for fiscal responsibility and federal compliances, i.e. an A-133 audit since we plan to spend at least \$1,000,000 in federal funds for the fiscal year.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, INC.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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July 31, 2026

4 All Funding Sources

- a. The cash balance at month-end is as projected and is sufficient for the requirements of the upcoming month.
Because of funding changes and limitations, the cash balance is being monitored closer before expenditures are paid.
As a reminder, cash from the Lumbee Bank CD, interest earned and bank account are included in the Operating Account until further notice.
The amounts are \$223,698.29 from the CD plus interest, and \$250 from the bank account. The transaction date is July 17, 2025.

5 Unrestricted Revenues (USR) - Fund 208

- a. The goal is to continue to use these funds only when other funding streams cannot be used or are not available.
b. The funds and interest earned from the redeemed Lumbee Bank CD#6 were deposited into the PFC Bank of America operating account until a time when the funds can be transferred to the Morgan Stanley E-Trade account, as approved by Board in June 2025.
c. The cash equivalent balances in Fund 208 consists of the following at the end of the month:

PNC Bank Money Market Account
First Bank Money Market Account
Morgan Stanley E*TRADE Account

5,645.37 *Does not include interest earned in Fund 899.*
100,000.00 *New account opened on November 27, 2023.*
118,000.00 *Gains/Losses are not reflected in the financial statements*
223,645.37

Interest Earned - Fund 899	
PNC Bank Money Market	1,195.15
First Bank Money Market	7,273.12
	8,468.27

Investments - Fund 208	223,645.37
Interest Earned - Fund 899	8,468.27
TOTAL INVESTMENTS PLUS INTEREST	232,113.64

- d. There is currently NOT a **negative** balance in the operating funds portion of the USR funding stream for the current fiscal year.

Board Responsibility

The review of the financial statements is the responsibility of the Committee and Board Members of PFC.

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July 31, 2026

6 Cash and In-kind Report

- a. The 19% match requirement of \$1,248,879 reflected on the monthly report is reflected at 100% of the base allocation [\$6,573,047 "old funds" x 19%].
- b. PFC's Leadership Team, staff and Board members will continue to discuss and implement strategies to meet our match requirement.
- c. PFC did not meet the 19% match requirement for FY16/17 through FY24/25. **We are awaiting final amounts for FY25/26.**
- d. Since the 19% required match was not met for the FY ended June 30, 2026, there will be no contribution to the PFC endowment.
- e. Income from **fundraisers** are to be reflected at the net amount only and after the event is over. Therefore, receipts from sponsors and donors will not be reported for Cash and In-kind purposes until such time.
- f. Income from the City of Fayetteville's federal ARPA grant for Family Connects and Workforce Development are allowable for Smart Start cash and in-kind purposes. The amount is anticipated to be up to \$154,323.74 during FY26-27.
- g. Income from the County of Cumberland's local government grant for Family Connects is allowable for Smart Start cash and in-kind purposes. The amount is anticipated to be \$218,700 for FY26-27.
- h. Parent Fees are not yet available and will be reported at a later time.

CCR&R Programs Updates

Submitted by: Ar-Nita Davis (Family Services Program Manager)

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026-August 30, 2026

Program:	NC Pre-K Program Cumberland County
Programmatic Updates: 2026-20257sy	Programmatic Updates: A. Beginning of the School Year: First Day of School August 24, 2026 B. NC Pre-K Total Allocation Change: 1383 1. Private: 837 2. Head Start: 82 3. CCS: 464 4. NC Pre-K Sites: 54 5. NC Pre-K Classrooms: 84 C. Children Applications Received & Placed 1. SchoolMint (Enroll) Applications Received: 2381 2. NC Pre-K App System: Waitlist-165 3. NC Pre-K App System: Placed-1325 D. Strengths and Barriers to Service Delivery E. Recruitment Efforts F. 2026-2027 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance as August 12,2026: *Attached. Partnership for Children's NC Pre-K page: https://ccpfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-2027-NC-Pre-K-Program-Requirements-and-Guidance-FINAL-8-12-26.pdf

CCR&R Programs Updates

Submitted by: Ar-Nita Davis (Family Services Program Manager)

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026-August 30, 2026

	G. NC Pre-K 2027-2030 Site Selection: NC Pre-K Site Selection Recruitment: Site Selection Application Open, July 19, 2026 and Closed August 20, 2026. Received eleven site applications: Two were ineligible due to not meeting the following mandatory requirements: 1. Attend one of the two required NC Pre-K Site Selection Information Sessions. (and/or) 2. Submission of the application after the established deadline of August 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. H. Interviewing for NC Pre-K Program Specialist (Data Entry) Position
Program:	Consumer Education A. Total Service for Children 301 B. Online Referrals Children: 220 C. Consumer Education Service for Families: 243 D. Presentation at Fayetteville Tech Community College: Parents for Higher Education (PFHE) September 3, 2026
Family Services Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:	A. Project Fresh Start 2026 Dept of Social Services August 2026 B. NC Pre-K Information Sessions for Prospective 2027-2030 August 2026 C. Data Con Thursday, August 6, 2026, Stedman Baptist Church D. NC Pre-K Site Administrator's 2026-2027 Kick Off Meeting August 20, 2026 E. Women's Summit Event Dept of Social Services F. Resilient Leadership Workgroup G. PFC Programs Virtual Information Session August 2026 H. Little Land: Down on the Farm September 4-13, 2026 I. Fun in the Sun FITS Schedule: Saturday, September 13, 2025 (10:00 am-2:00 pm) Department of Public Health J. COLORS K. NC Pre-K Site Administrator's 2026-2027 September 20, 2026 (Via Zoom)

CCR&R Programs Updates

Submitted by: Ar-Nita Davis (Family Services Program Manager)

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026-August 30, 2026

	L. Community Resource Exchange on Tuesday, September 22, from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm. M. DCDEE Café 'NC Pre-K Monthly Café Meeting. N. PFC Fall Festival October 29, 2026 O. Grilled Cheese Festival Saturday, November 7, 2026
Family Services Professional Development opportunities attended or attended by Team	A. Financial Social Work Workshops B. Administering & Interpreting the ASQ:SE-2 with the ARCh project C. ECERS-3 Review D. NC Pre-K Kids Database Training E. The Next Layer: Leadership Development in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation F. Making the Most of August Recess: Engaging Members of Congress on WIC and SNAP
Family Services Current and Upcoming Projects:	A. 2027-28 NC Pre-k Site Selection October 2026 B. Food Drive with Winter Give Away November 2026 C. Parent Café' February 2027 D. Family Engagement Training (TBA) E. Father Engagement Conference (TBA)
Additional Information:	

2026-2027 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance
Updated August 12, 2026

Revisions Notes

2026-2027 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance, updated on the Partnership for Children's NC Pre-K page: <https://ccpfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-2027-NC-Pre-K-Program-Requirements-and-Guidance-FINAL-8-12-26.pdf>

Please note the following revisions:

Section 3: The NC Pre-K Child

1. Tables in **Subsection C. Eligibility for Families at or Below 75% of State Median Income** and **Subsection D. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Maintenance of Effort** have been updated to reflect the **2026-2027 income limits**.

Section 5: The NC Pre-K Classroom

1. A guidance box has been added to **Subsection C. Early Learning Standards and Curricula**.
2. The lists of approved curricula and assessments in **Subsection C. Early Learning Standards and Curricula** and **Subsection D. Formative Assessments** have been updated, along with links to the DCDEE website.
3. **Subsection K. Early Literacy Assessments** has been revised to align with information released by DPI.

Section 6: The NC Pre-K Staff

1. Additional language has been added to the guidance box in **Subsection C. Teacher Assistant Education and Credentials** regarding the **Birth-to-Five CDA**.
2. **Subsection H. NC Pre-K Reimbursement Rates by Site Type** has been updated to reflect the new reimbursement rates.

DCDEE is currently working to have the **2026-2027 NC Pre-K Program Requirements and Guidance** posted on the DCDEE website

CCR&R Programs Updates

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. Shelia Rowe

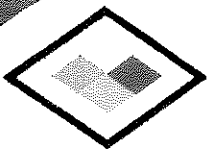
Program:	Early Care & Education Coaches, Professional Development & Library/KPL- Kaleidoscope Play & Learn©
Site Visits:	ECE Coaches- Our coaches received 35 Technical Assistance applications addressing QRIS Pathways, challenging behaviors, and classroom management. The team is currently reviewing applications, developing TA agreements, and providing relevant training and support. FCCH-Family Childcare Consultant- We received 16 applications for the Family Child Care Home Leadership Academy. We are also sharing information to connect providers with Child Care Aware of America and opportunities to serve military-connected families. Staffing Updates • We will be adding three new coaches to the Provider Services team to support the new South-Central Territory • Johanna has transitioned to the Learning Library as our Early Literacy and Play Coordinator. Learning Library and KPL- Kaleidoscope Play & Learn©: The Learning Library will offer Stories, Activities, and Adventure Days on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. Kaleidoscope Play & Learn© (KPL) groups are held on Thursdays: • Fascinate-U Children’s Museum: 9:30–11:00 a.m. • Partnership for Children of Cumberland County: 2:00–3:30 p.m. Professional Development • Supporting FTCC in the workforce cohort. • Our Professional Development Calendar is available online. • Save the date for our Professional Development Day: Saturday, October 10, 2026 Methodist University “Joy Belongs Where You Are: A Reset for Purpose, Energy, and Alignment” Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Nefertiti Poyner
Meetings/Outreach Events Attended:	Little Land on the farm. September 11 th
Professional Development: Opportunities attended or attended by Team	

CCR&R Programs Updates

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Ms. Shelia Rowe

Current and Upcoming Projects:	Training Calendar for FY 2/27 Trainings scheduled through December 2026.
Upcoming Events:	NA
Additional Updates:	Quarterly Virtual Information Session November 19th 6:30pm



**MID-CAROLINA
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Creating Regional Solutions

KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

You're not alone. We're in this together.



A supportive community for grandparents,
relatives, and close family friends
raising children.



SHARE

Share your
experiences
in a safe,
supportive
environment.



RECEIVE SUPPORT

Get
encouragement
from others
who
understand.



LEARN

Discover
helpful
resources,
tools, and
strategies.



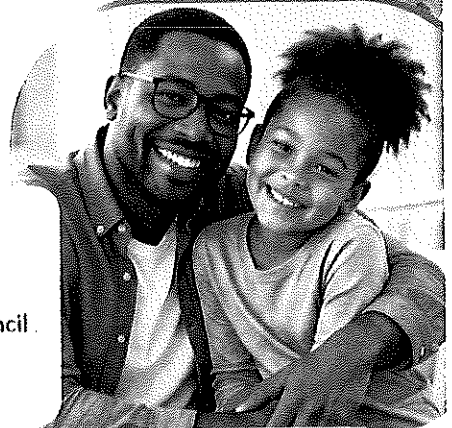
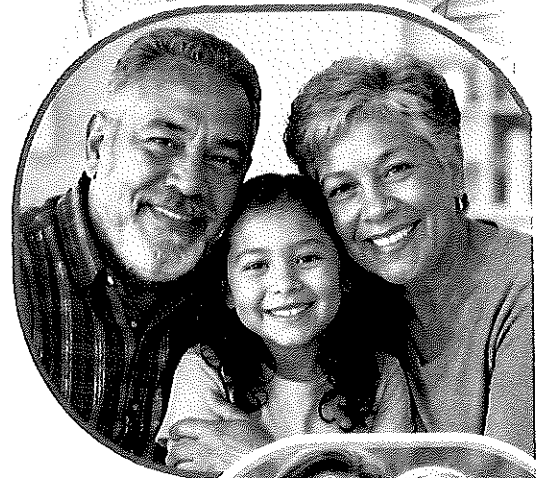
RELAX & CONNECT

Enjoy
fellowship
and build
lasting
connections.



STRENGTHEN

Build confidence
and support
your family
journey.



**1ST TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM



LOCATION:

Mid-Carolina Regional Council
6205 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

Whether you need advice,
resources, or just a listening ear—
you'll find a community that cares.

OPEN TO ALL KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Grandparents • Relatives • Family Friends
Raising Children

Together, we are stronger.

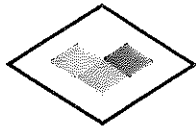


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Barbara White
910-323-4191
www.mccog.org



Care.
Connect.
Support.



MID-CAROLINA
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Family Caregiver Support Program



Respite | Supplemental Assistance Seniors Raising Children | Support Groups

Serving Cumberland, Harnett & Sampson Counties



Caring for a senior 60 or older with a physical disability, or Dementia/Alzheimer's?

RESPITE

- You must be at least 18 or older to participate in the once a year program
- The respite program will award you with a voucher to hire an agency or respite worker to come into your home to provide temporary relief
- It is designed to give unpaid caregivers a break

Are you paying additional out of pocket expenses for your loved one?

SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE

- The supplemental assistance voucher can help reimburse you for approved caregiver items that you purchase
- Incontinence or nutrition supplies like Depends, Boost, or Ensure
- Cane, walker, or shower chair

Senior Raising Children Program (SRC)

- The SRC program provides a voucher for tutoring services, after-school programs and summer camps
- Grandchildren must be 17 years of age and under to qualify



**Are you a Caregiver and feeling overwhelmed?
Come join us once a month at a location near you.**

SUPPORT GROUPS

- Engage in interaction amongst other caregivers by sharing thoughts and ideas
- Enjoy time away from home to learn coping skills to better assist your situation
- Be the first to know what the agency has to offer through monthly interactions

CONTACT:

Barbara A. White | FCSP Coordinator
bwhitie@mccog.org | 910-323-4191 ext. 28

6205 Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC