



Buncombe County Early Childhood Committee

Orientation Session

April 23, 2019



Agenda



- Buncombe County Strategic Priority
- Committee Structure
- Early Childhood Education, Why it Matters & The Community Need
- Funding Process





“

Ensure that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days including access to quality early childhood education.

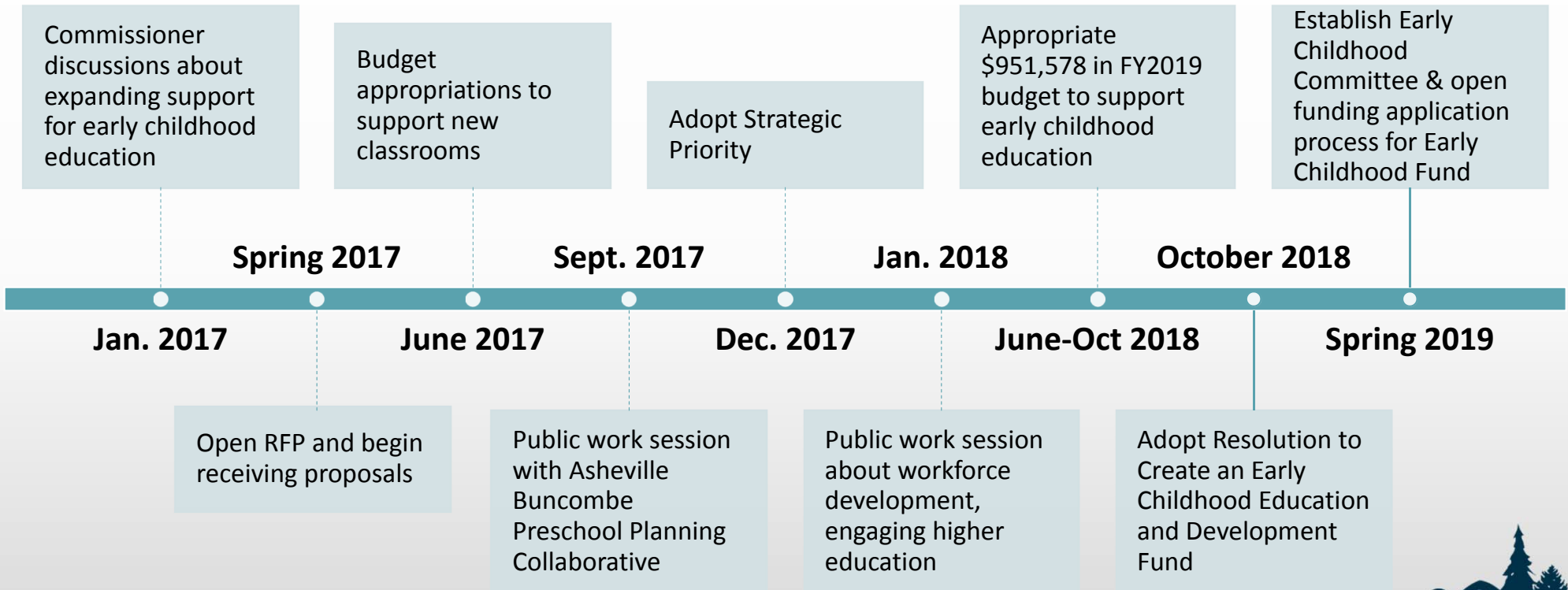
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- Board of Commissioners
Strategic Priority





County Timeline



Authorizing Resolution

- Resolution # 18-10-16, adopted October 30, 2018
- Authorized the creation of an **Early Childhood Education and Development Fund** for the purpose of annually investing \$3.6 million, beginning in the FY2020 budget with an annual increase of 2% in future years
- Established an **Early Childhood Education Committee** – initially established as a sub-committee of County Commission comprised of 3 commissioners, then expanded to include community participation



Early Childhood Committee

- The committee is comprised of fifteen (15) members that will be appointed by the Board of Commissioners:
 - Three (3) members of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
 - One (1) business or economic development professional
 - One (1) funder or community investment professional
 - One (1) parent
 - One (1) pediatrician or medical professional in service to young children
 - One (1) professor or higher education professional
 - One (1) retiree from the field of early childhood education
 - Six (6) members of the public representing the community at large



Early Childhood Committee



Serve with your Commissioners

**JOIN THE EARLY
CHILDHOOD COMMITTEE**



Committee Members

Role	Appointee
Business/Economic Development	Kit Cramer
Funder/Community Investment	Philip Belcher
Higher Education	Mistie Reising-Cogbill
Medical Professional	Susan Mims
Parent	Chavaun Letman
Retiree	Christy Cheek
Community/At Large	Edward "Rich" Johnston
Community/At Large	Glenda Weinert
Community/At Large	Himanshu Karvir
Community/At Large	Jane Hatley
Community/At Large	Kidada Wynn
Community/At Large	Leslie Anderson



Committee Meetings

- First Tuesdays of each month
- 2:30 – 4:00pm
- 200 College Street, Ground Floor Conference Room



Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee is to:

- **engage with community partners,**
- **solicit public input,** and
- **make policy and funding recommendations** to the Board of Commissioners.



Community Engagement Activities



- Board of Commissioners public comment
- Input session with County & School Systems
- Input session with Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative
- Public input session
- Let's Talk open comments
- Public comment at Committee Meetings
- Responsive & collaborative staff approach



Strategic Goals

- Collective Impact** • Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach;
- Availability** • Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs;
- Affordability** • Address issues of affordability, both for providers in a sustainable business model and for families in access to care;
- Workforce** • Support a robust career track in the field of early education, with development ladders from entry level to highly educated, credentialed, seasoned professionals; and
- Family Support** • Cultivate a system that responds to the needs of families, such as those impacted by trauma, poverty and addiction.



What do we mean by Early Childhood Education?



Child care

Pre-K

0-5

Preschool

EARLY CARE

B-K



The Need

- There is a well-documented local shortage of quality early childhood education programs;
- There is also a shortage of qualified teachers and other professionals to work in classrooms and centers; and
- Families face many barriers to accessing existing program, including affordability.



Proven Results

- Provides foundational growth in intellectual, social, and emotional development
- Improves school readiness & educational attainment
- Strengthens parents' access to employment
- Builds our future workforce
- Generates economic returns



Fragile, Complex System



- Availability – limited options, long wait lists
- Affordability – difficulty for providers to cover the costs of high quality care and difficulty for families to afford it
- Additional barriers for families with special needs
- Complex & limited funding
- Workforce shortage



Types of Care

- All care is regulated by NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (NC DCDEE):
 - Licensed programs (more than 4 hours)
 - Part-day, unlicensed regulated programs (4 hours or less)
- Types of licensed programs (ages 0-5):
 - Child Care Centers
 - Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)
- Publicly-funded programs that make care more affordable for parents:
 - Head Start (3- to 5-year-olds)
 - Early Head Start (0- to 2-year-olds)
 - NC Pre Kindergarten (4-year-olds)



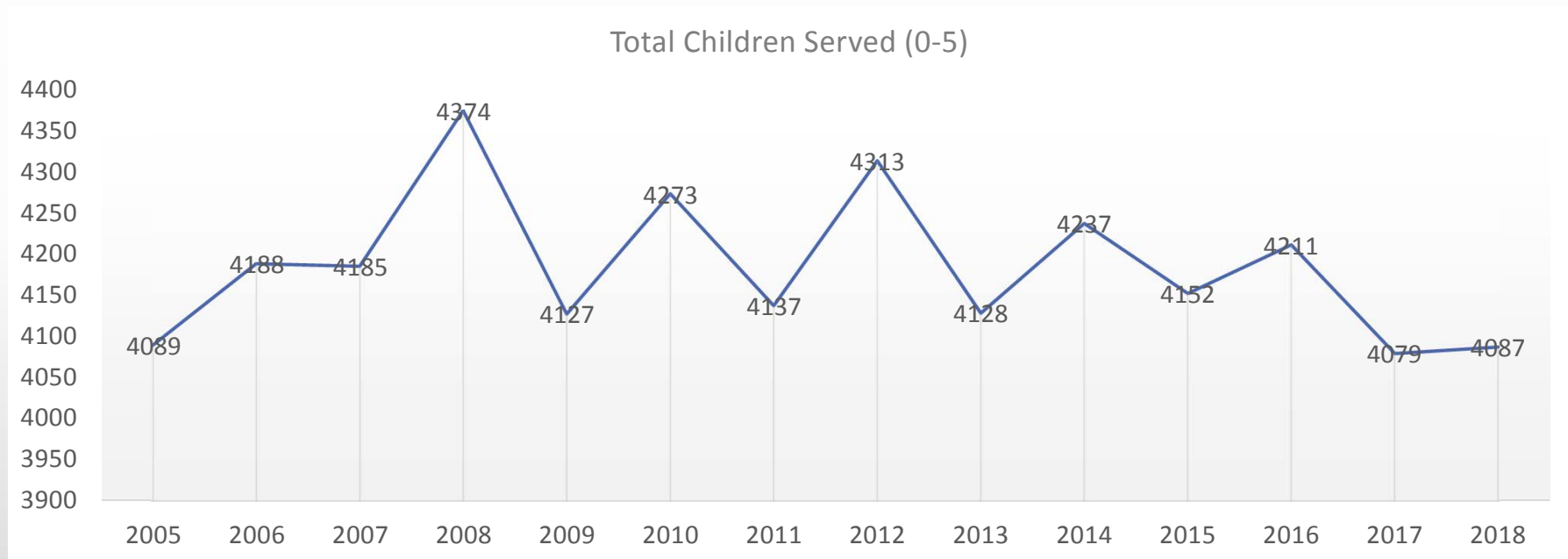
Availability

Less than 1/3 of children in Buncombe County are enrolled in licensed programs.

	INF	1	2	3	4	SPS	Totals
Children in Licensed Care (September 2018, DCDEE)	232	449	681	893	1172	660	4087
Total Available Child Population (NC OMB, 2018)	2861	2646	2632	2634	2660	886	14319
% of all children served (A/B)	8%	17%	26%	34%	44%	74%	29%
# of children available (not being served, does not imply need, B-A)	2629	2197	1951	1741	1488	226	10232

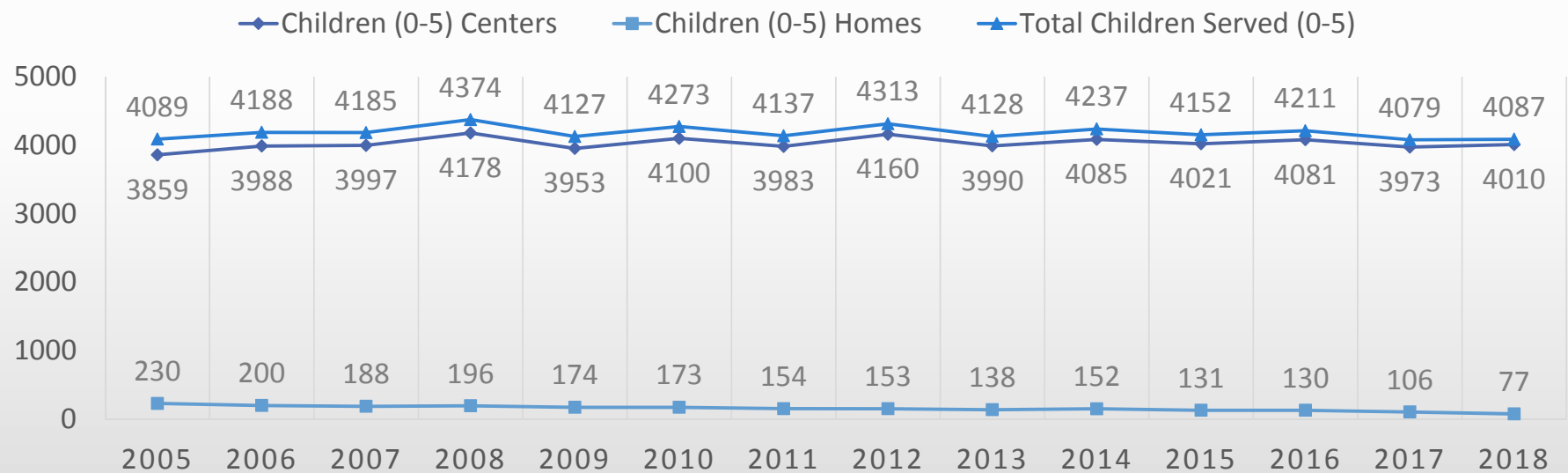


Enrollment Over Time – Licensed Facilities



Enrollment by Type of Licensed Facility

CHILDREN IN LICENSED CARE (AGES 0-5)



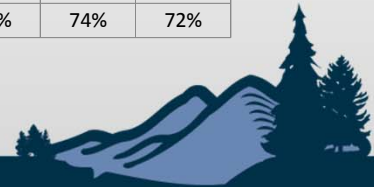
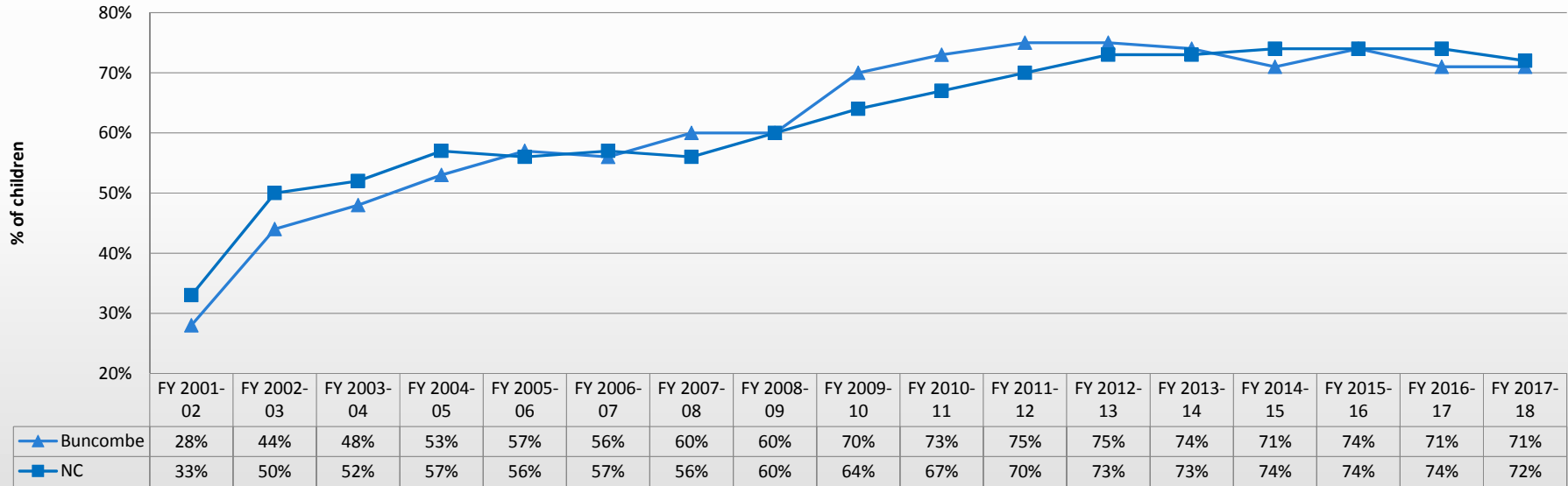
Quality

- North Carolina's Start Rating System:
Uses a 5-point rating system for program standards and staff education; 4- or 5-star rated program are considered high quality in NC
- Other program-specific quality standards, such as NC Pre-K, Head Start, Developmental Day



Quality on the Rise

Children in Licensed High Quality Care - All Children



Affordability

- Quality is tied to cost
- Personnel a driver of cost: Expensive to meet quality standards such as teacher ratios and teacher education requirements
- NC's Subsidized Child Care Program market rates haven't kept pace and are inconsistent across the state
- Affordability gaps for parents/families
- Delicate business models for providers



Affordability

- In NC, the average annual cost of center based care for an infant is \$9,254; \$8,386 for a toddler; and \$7,920 for a four-year-old.
- There are several options to help families pay for care if they meet income eligibility and other guidelines, including Early Head Start, Head Start, NC Pre-Kindergarten, and child care subsidies.
- Parents receiving child care subsidies must pay parent fees of 10% of family gross income and the difference between the voucher reimbursement rate and the advertised cost of the slot, or the differential rate.
- The cost of wrap-around care (extended hours before or after the official program hours) is an additional cost to families and may not be available depending on the program site, sometimes making care difficult for working parents.



Workforce Challenges

- Providers challenged with recruiting, retaining, developing and compensating qualified teachers
- Wages are low in the field ECE
- Low wages make it hard for teachers to stay in the field and support their families
- There are limited local opportunities for pursuing higher education in early childhood education



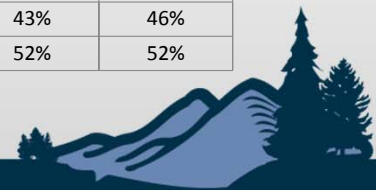
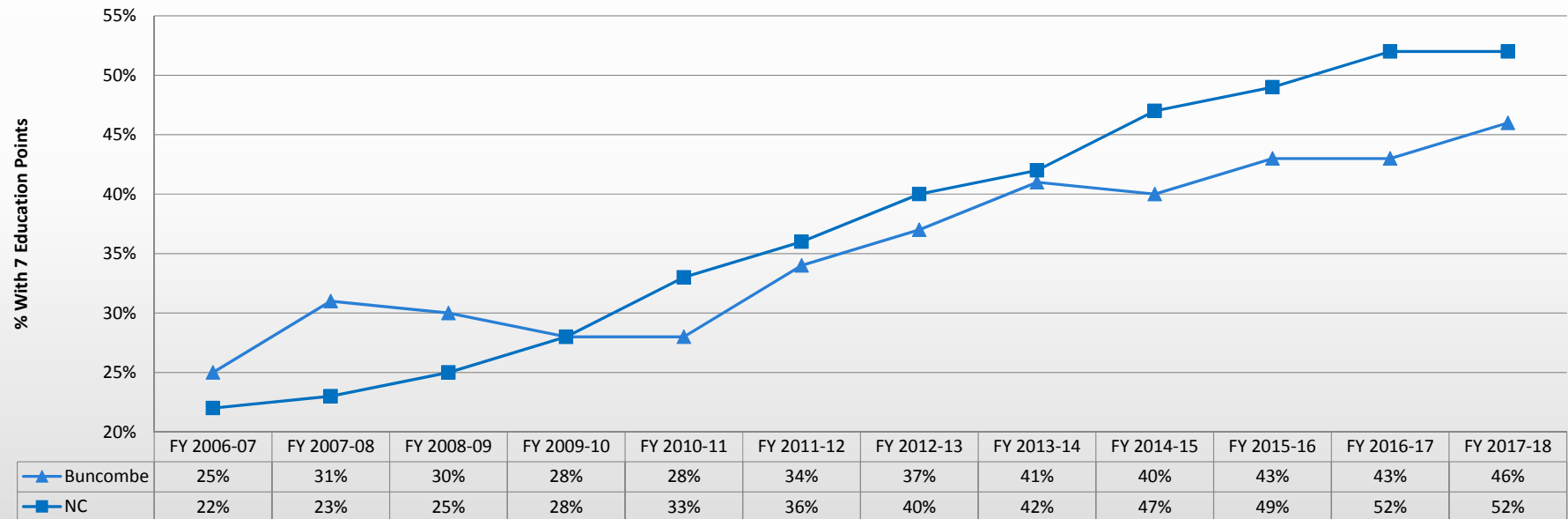
Buncombe Workforce: By the Numbers

- Number of teachers = 730
- Number of administrators = 115
- Number of support staff = 142
- Center directors in Region 8 earn \$19.00 per hour
- Teachers in Region 8 earn \$13.12 per hour
- Assistant teachers in Region 8 earn \$10.25 per hour
- WAGE\$ salary supplement program participants = 122 teacher/administrators in 49 facilities
- Turnover rate of WAGE\$ recipients = 18%
- TEACH Early Childhood scholarship program = 74 participants in 30 facilities
- Facilities receiving unrestricted Smart Start grants from Buncombe Partnership for Children to maintain high quality = 63



Lead Teacher Education

Lead Teacher Education



Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy (Vouchers)

State and federally funded

Parent fees may apply

This program serves approximately 2500 children annually

- For children birth to 12 years of age; parent fees are 10% of gross monthly income for all vouchers.
- Financial assistance for child care and after school care provided to eligible families for children enrolled in participating 3, 4 and 5 star programs, as well as GS110, (church/religious sponsored) programs. Families are able to choose their own child care provider. Child care providers are reimbursed per child at a rate set by the state.
- Vouchers may be used for full-time care, summer care, after school care, or wrap around care for free part-time programs like Early Head Start and NC Pre-K.

Children 0-5, not in Kindergarten

200% Federal Poverty

Children 6-12 years of age

133% Federal Poverty

200% Federal Poverty as of 2018:

Family of two – \$32,920

Family of four – \$50,200

133% Federal Poverty as of 2017:

Family of two - \$21,599

Family of four - \$32,718

- Families must be working and/or enrolled in school for a minimum of 30 hours a week



Early Head Start

Early Head Start

A federally funded program

No cost to families

Over 84 children served annually

- **Free** high quality child care and a variety of services designed to meet the medical, dental, nutritional and mental health needs of participating children.
- For children up to 3 years of age.
- Center-based options are offered daily for 4.5 hours, (hours vary depending on location.)
- Does not provide full-time child care. Families needing help with child care for the remainder of the day should apply for child care subsidy or pay a parent fee.

- Children must be younger than 3 years of age
- Family income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty

Federal Poverty Guidelines as of 2018:

Family of two – \$16,460

Family of four – \$25,100

- Families are assessed on various need and risk factors
- Priority placement as space permits for teen parents, homeless children, migrant children
- Families receiving SSI are automatically eligible as space permits



Head Start

Head Start

A federally funded program

No cost to families

Over 500 children served annually

- **Free** high quality child care and a variety of services designed to meet the medical, dental, nutritional and mental health needs of participating children.
- For children 3 to 5 years of age prior to kindergarten.
- Classrooms are located in most Buncombe County Elementary Schools, Asheville City Schools Preschool and in 3 community centers: Hillcrest, Lonnie D. Burton, Pisgah View.
- 10-month program – August through May.
- Does not provide full-time child care. Hours typically are 4 to 6.5 hours a day.

- For children 3 to 5 years of age prior to kindergarten.
 - Family income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty
- Federal Poverty Guidelines as of 2018:
- Family of two – \$16,460
 - Family of four – \$25,100
- Priority placement for children who are homeless, or in foster care; families on SSI, Work First, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as space permits



NC Pre-K

NC Pre-K

NC Pre-Kindergarten

(formerly More at 4)













A state funded program

Over 365 children served annually

- **Free**, high quality child care and education for 6.5 hours a day.
 - For children 4 years of age by August 31 of the current school year.
 - 10-month program, typically August through May.
 - Multiple providers and classroom locations. Check the Buncombe Partnership for Children website for current listing of providers. (www.buncombepfc.org)
 - Does not provide full-time child care. Families needing help with child care for the remainder of the day should apply for child care subsidy or pay a parent fee for wrap around care, which is available at limited sites.
- State Median Income as of 2017:
- 75% of State median income guidelines apply
 - Family of two – \$35,700
 - Family of four – \$52,500
- Children must be 4 years of age by August 31 of the school year
 - Prioritization for enrollment: children with no previous child care experience; children with active duty military caregiver(s); children with special needs

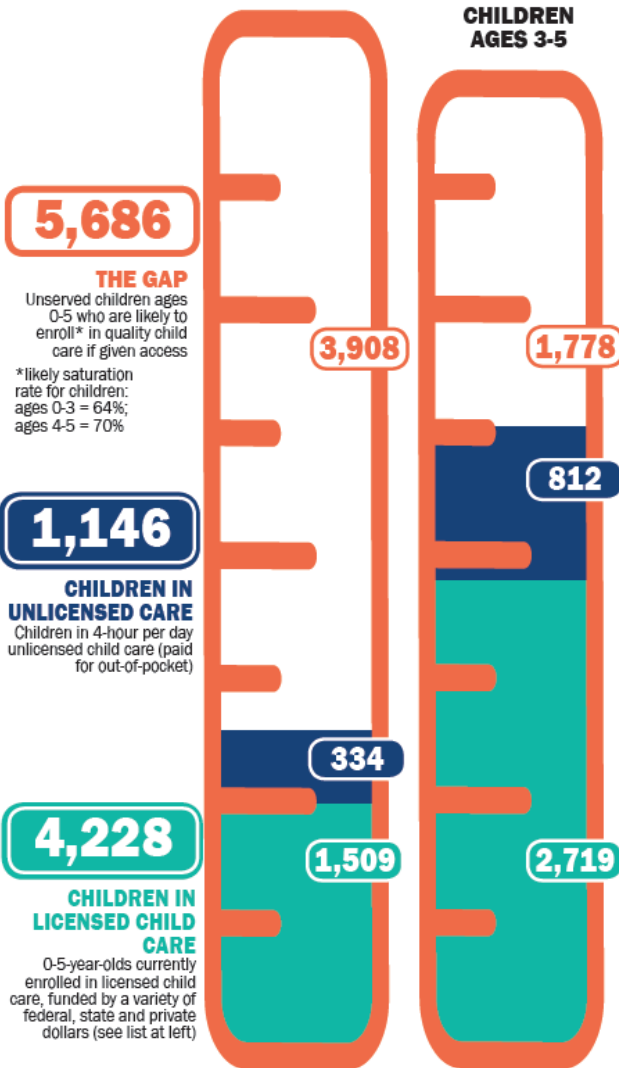


FUNDING SOURCES CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM

-  **Early Head Start**
Child care for very low-income families
-  **Head Start**
Child care for very low-income families
-  **NC Pre-K**
Child care for low-income families
-  **Child Care Dev. Fund Block Grant**
Supports quality improvements, TEACH scholarships, Infant Toddler salary supplements
-  **Local public schools (Title I funds)**
Supports kindergarten readiness strategies in public schools for low-income families
-  **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**
Provides facility reimbursement for food costs
-  **State child care subsidies**
Partially subsidizes child care for working families (vouchers)
-  **Developmental day licensed programs**
Provides child care for children with special needs
-  **Smart Start**
Child care subsidies, wage supplements, and grants to child care programs
-  **County funds**
Grants for system and child care operational supports
-  **Gifts & grants**
from private foundations, corporations, & other donors
-  **Out-of-pocket tuition**

CHILDREN AGES 0-2

CHILDREN AGES 3-5



Filling the Gap

What it would take for the Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative to fill the high quality early care and education gap with local funds.

What would it cost to fill the gap?
(i.e. to put 5,686 0-5-year-olds in licensed, quality child care)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN x **\$ COST PER CHILD**

5,686 unserved, eligible, likely to enroll 0-5-year-olds \$12,000 for 0-2
\$10,774 for 3-5

\$46.9 MILLION total slot cost for ages 0-2

+ \$19.2 MILLION total slot cost for ages 3-5

= \$66,052,172 total slot funding needed

+ \$25,000/NEW CLASSROOM estimated per classroom start-up cost



created for the Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative in February, 2019 www.abppc.org

Early Childhood Fund



The purpose of the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund is to advance the strategic priority of ensuring that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days, including access to quality early childhood education.



Strategic Goals

- Collective Impact** • Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach;
- Availability** • Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs;
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Funding Priorities

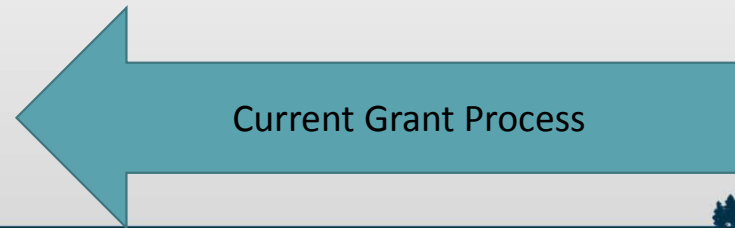
Funding will be allocated for the following purposes:

- Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings;
- Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers;
- Supporting strategies for scaling up effective programs; and
- Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs.



FY2020 County Investments

- **\$3.6 million total pledged**
- **\$800,695 to extend current contracts into FY2020**
 - Buncombe Partnership for Children \$153,000
 - Christine Avery Learning Center: \$29,036
 - Community Action Johnston Elementary: \$131,916
 - Valley Child Development Center: \$207,508
 - Warren Wilson College PEECE Program: \$200,235
 - YWCA Early Learning: \$79,000
- **\$2,799,305 available for new grants**



Funding Eligibility

- All organization types were eligible to apply. This includes public/governmental agencies as well as private organizations, including nonprofits and private businesses.
- In this first year (FY2020), requests for funding for capital projects were restricted to the public school systems. Capital outlay projects are defined as planning, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, improvement, repair, or renovation of buildings and for the purchase of land for early childhood care and education purposes.
- Any organization type may request funding for program operations.
- Multi-year funding requests will be considered.



Applications

- 27 applications from 23 organizations
- \$6,883,623 requested
- Includes:
 - One-time & Multi-year
 - Capital & Operating
 - New, Expansion & Continuation
 - Program & System-focus
 - Public, Private, Faith-based & Nonprofit
 - Classrooms, Workforce & Supportive Services



Fiscal Year 2020 Funding Process

- **March 6, 2019:** Applications open
- **April 19, 2019:** Applications due
- **April 23, 2019:** Committee orientation
- **May 7, 2019:** Committee meeting – begin scoring
- **May 28, 2019:** Committee member grant evaluations due
- **June 4, 2019:** Committee meeting – discuss funding recommendations
- **June 7, 2019:** Deadline for June 18 Board of Commissioners packet
- **June 18, 2019:** County Budget adoption = Target date for grant approvals
- **July 1, 2019:** FY2020 funding period begins
- **July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020:** Support, monitoring & evaluation



Next Steps

Score Applications

Award Grants

Finalize Project Plans

Define Measures of Success

Execute Contracts

Issue Funds

Implement Projects

Track, Monitor, Evaluate



Next Meeting

May 7, 2019

2:30 – 4:00

200 College Street

Ground Floor Conference Room

Focus:

Scoring Applications



Public Comment

