

NC Pre-K Expansion Planning Update

PRESENTED BY BUNCOMBE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

BUNCOMBE COUNTY ECE FUND COMMITTEE MEETING



Overview

- BPFC scope of work & planning approach
- ECE context
- NC Pre-K: current program and challenges
- BPFC's focus areas and key recommendations

Getting to Here

January 2021: Commissioners announce intent to expand Pre-K

June 2021: Ad-hoc committee recommends focus on NC Pre-K

July 2021: BPFC enters contract with County to develop recommendations to:

- Supplement and expand the existing NC Pre-K program
- Offer more robust support to enrolled providers
- Create access and support for new providers to join
- Address workforce needs
- Increase access to NC Pre-K for families

Getting to NC Pre-K Recommendations

Learning from **Child Care Services Association, Inc (CCSA)**

Working with **ABPPC** and workgroups

Expanding **director and teacher** engagement

Exchanging ideas with **families**, community groups, respected leaders

Current Context

BUNCOMBE ECE AMID COVID-19

COVID-19 Impacts

Buncombe County has been extremely fortunate to lose only one program to COVID-19. However, this table only hints at the biggest impact: workforce.

	Feb-20	May-20	Sept-21	% change
Children enrolled (ages 0-12)	5473	921	5030	-8%
# facilities (serving ages 0-12)	113	54	114	1%



FY 2019-20: Percent of 1-5 star centers with at least 75% of lead teachers with college degrees



Children in Care		Infants	1 yr olds	2 yr olds	3 yr olds	4 yr olds	5 yr old PS	Total
A	Children in licensed care	169	396	587	898	1155	560	3,765
B	Total available child population	2297	2400	2393	2468	2532	878	12,968
C	% of all children served (A/B)	7%	17%	25%	36%	46%	64%	29%
D	# of children not being served (does not imply need) B-A)	2,128	2,004	1,806	1,570	1,377	318	9,203

NC Pre-K Refresher

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, COSTS, REACH, CHALLENGES

NC Pre-K Program Overview

- State-funded program (NC Division of Child Development and Early Education)
- No cost to families
- 10-month school year; 6.5-hour school day
- Offered in a variety of settings



NC Pre-K Child Eligibility

- 4 years old by August 31st
- Income eligibility = 75% of SMI (family of 4 = \$57,542)
- Children with risk factors:
 - Limited English proficiency
 - Chronic health condition
 - Developmental need
 - Identified disability



NC Pre-K Provider Requirements

- 4 or 5 star rated license
- 1:9 teacher/child ratio
- Nutritional services provided
- State approved curriculum, formative assessment tool, developmental screener
- Lead teacher with a Birth-Kindergarten license
- Assistant Teacher with AA degree in ECE

Current NC Pre-K Funding (FY22)

Direct Service (<i>435 slots</i>):	\$2,295,220	92%
Administrative:	\$ 139,619	6%
Quality/CCDF:	\$ 45,082	2%
Total Contracted Funds:	\$2,479,921	



BPFC's Role in NC Pre-K

NC Pre-K local administrator

- Subcontracts & payments
- Child and provider recruitment
- Data collection and outcomes reporting
- Monthly child attendance
- Teacher licensure and credentials tracking
- Annual site monitoring
- Advisory committee

Reimbursement Rate Structure

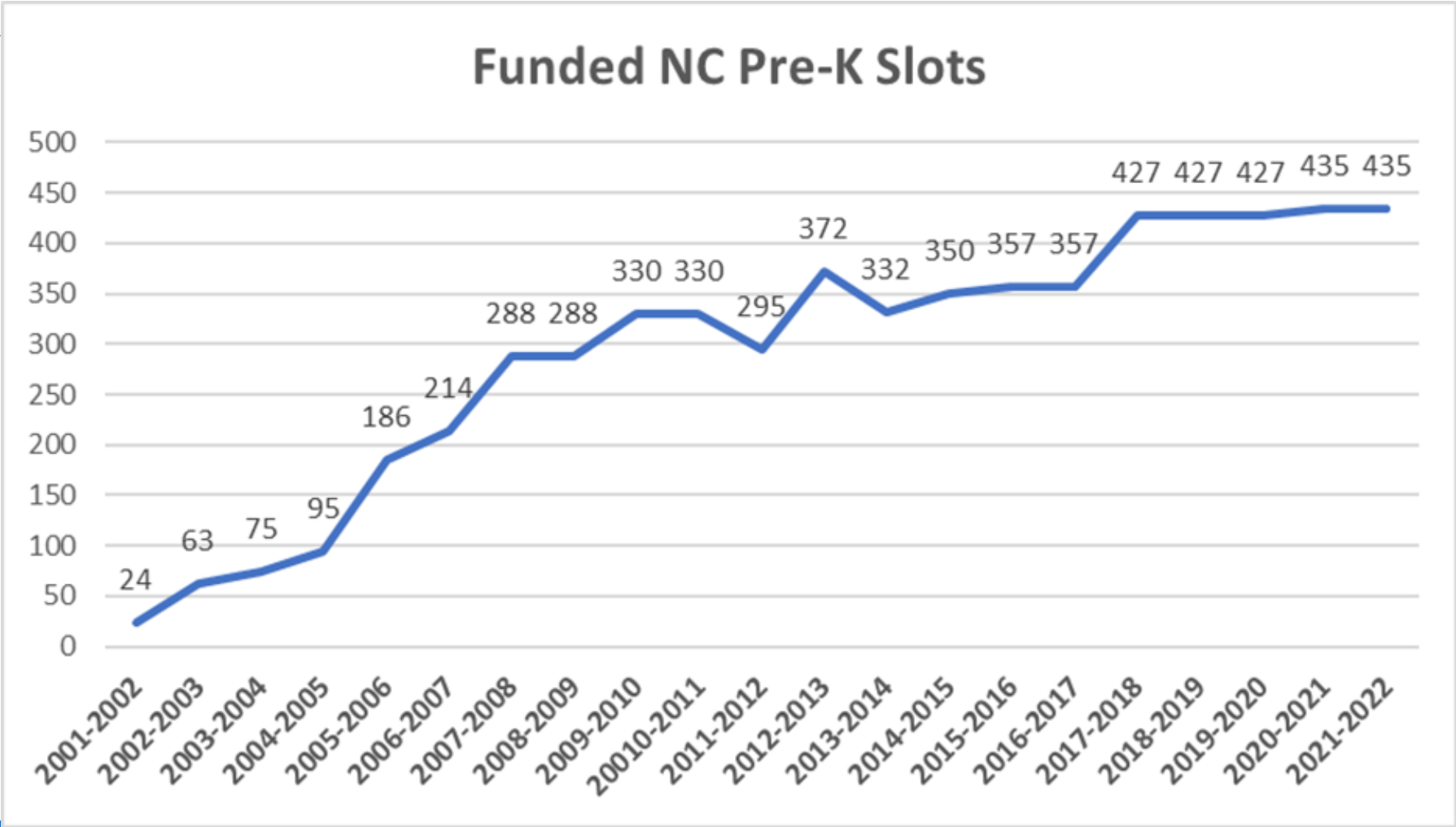
Full cost of care is NOT covered by the state.

2018 State Legislative Study concluded average NC Pre-K cost of care = \$912/month

Provider Type	Monthly STATE Rate Per Child	Monthly LOCAL Rate Per Child
Private Providers	\$600 to \$650	\$728*
Public School	\$473	\$530*
Head Start	\$300 to \$400	\$344 to \$400

**12% reimbursement increase approved by local NC Pre-K committee and by DCDEE in FY2019*

Local NC Pre-K Program Growth



Local NC Pre-K Landscape

Provider Overview			
Providers	Funded slots	Total Sites	Total Classrooms
Asheville City Schools	73	5	10
Childcare Network #177	15	1	1
Christine Avery Learning Center	16	1	1
Community Action Opportunities/Head Start	215.5	18	27
Eliada Child Development	80	1	6
Irene Wortham Center	11	1	2
Verner Center for Early Learning	13	1	1
YWCA Early Learning	18	1	1
Totals:	441.5	29	49

NC Pre-K Expansion Challenges

Reimbursement rate does not cover the full cost of care

Lack of Birth-Kindergarten licensed lead teachers

Lack of pay parity with public school licensed teachers creates high turnover within private child care settings

NC Pre-K school day/school year schedule is a barrier for working families

Providers need more local resources such as: curriculum coaches, data analysts, developmental screeners, trauma informed care training, etc.

No time for new providers to ramp up, learn program requirements, and be trained on curriculum and assessment tools.

How to move forward

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND NC PRE-K

Key Areas & Recommendations

Increase K readiness • Expand access to Pre-K • Reduce racial disparities

Fully fund NC Pre-K

- State slot rate supplement
- Licensed teacher pay parity with K-12

Ramp-up future providers

- Admin PD & coaching
- Classroom PD & coaching

Strengthen & diversify workforce pipeline

- Ed attainment supports
- Retention supports

Simplify applying to preschool

- One online application
- Family navigation
- Coordinated placement

Expand access to wrap-around care

- More locations
- Subsidized slots

Expand access to transportation

- More locations
- Subsidized cost

3 key references for our work

Leandro Court Case Report w/ Funding Recommendations: Sound, Basic Education for All: An Action Plan for North Carolina and Funding Recommendations

my FutureNC 2030: Regional Report (4 county collaborative convened by Land of Sky)

NC Early Education Action Plan

Questions and Discussion

