



Buncombe County Early Childhood and Development Committee Meeting

February 6, 2024

Meet the Education team



Erika Williams, Ph.D.
Vice President



Victoria Brownlee
Officer



Tricia Wilson
Associate

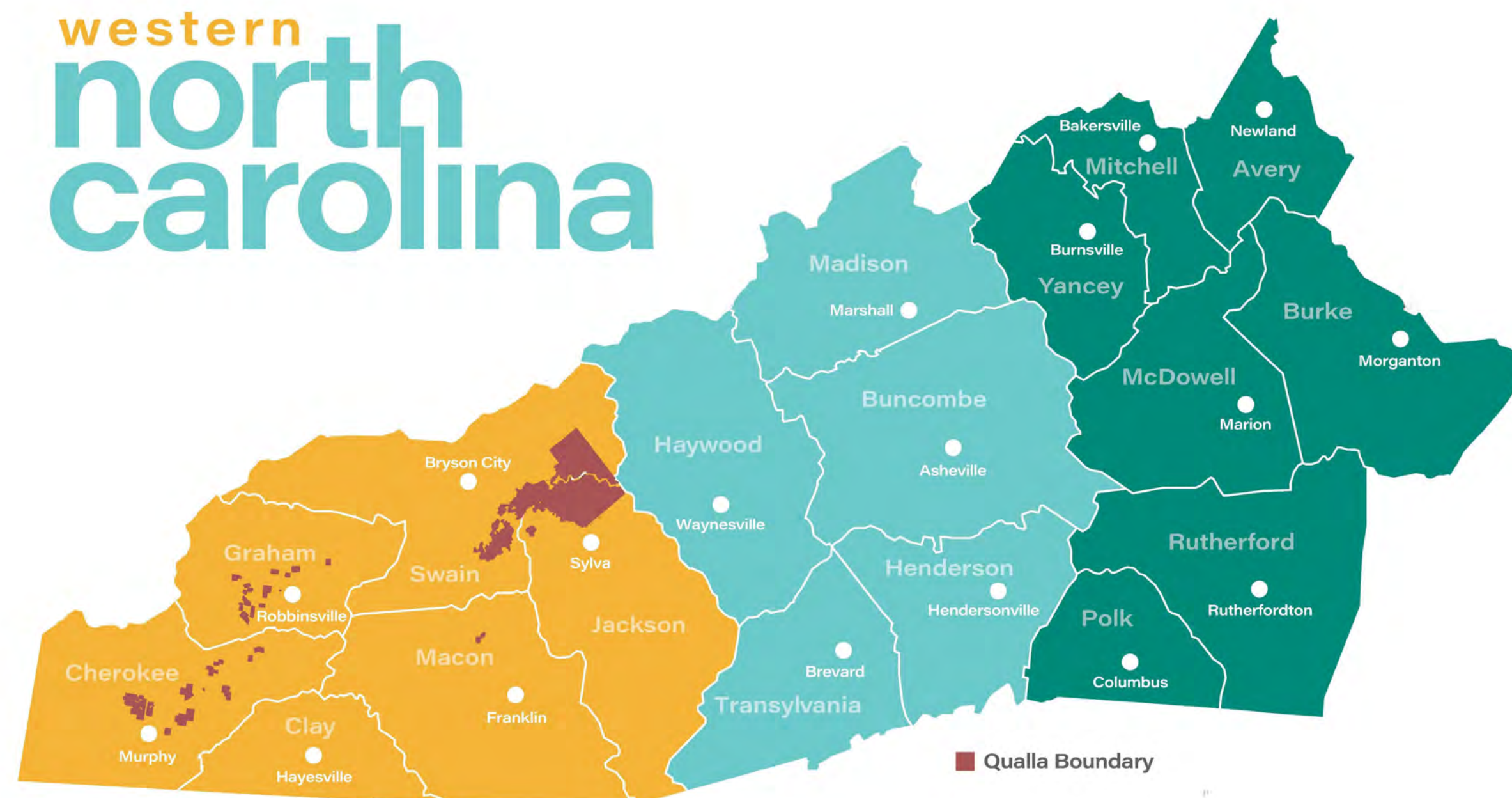


Stephen Blount
Assistant



Dogwood's Purpose

Dogwood Health Trust exists to dramatically improve the health and wellbeing of all people and communities in the 18 counties and Qualla Boundary of Western North Carolina. We engage at all levels of our communities to advance our shared commitment toward creating a Western North Carolina where every generation can live, learn, earn, and thrive – no exceptions.



Education Priorities

Early Childhood

- Invest in an improved early care and education ecosystem with the resources and sustainability to provide developmentally appropriate, affordable, and accessible education and care to support ages birth to five, so that all children in WNC enter kindergarten ready to learn.

K-12

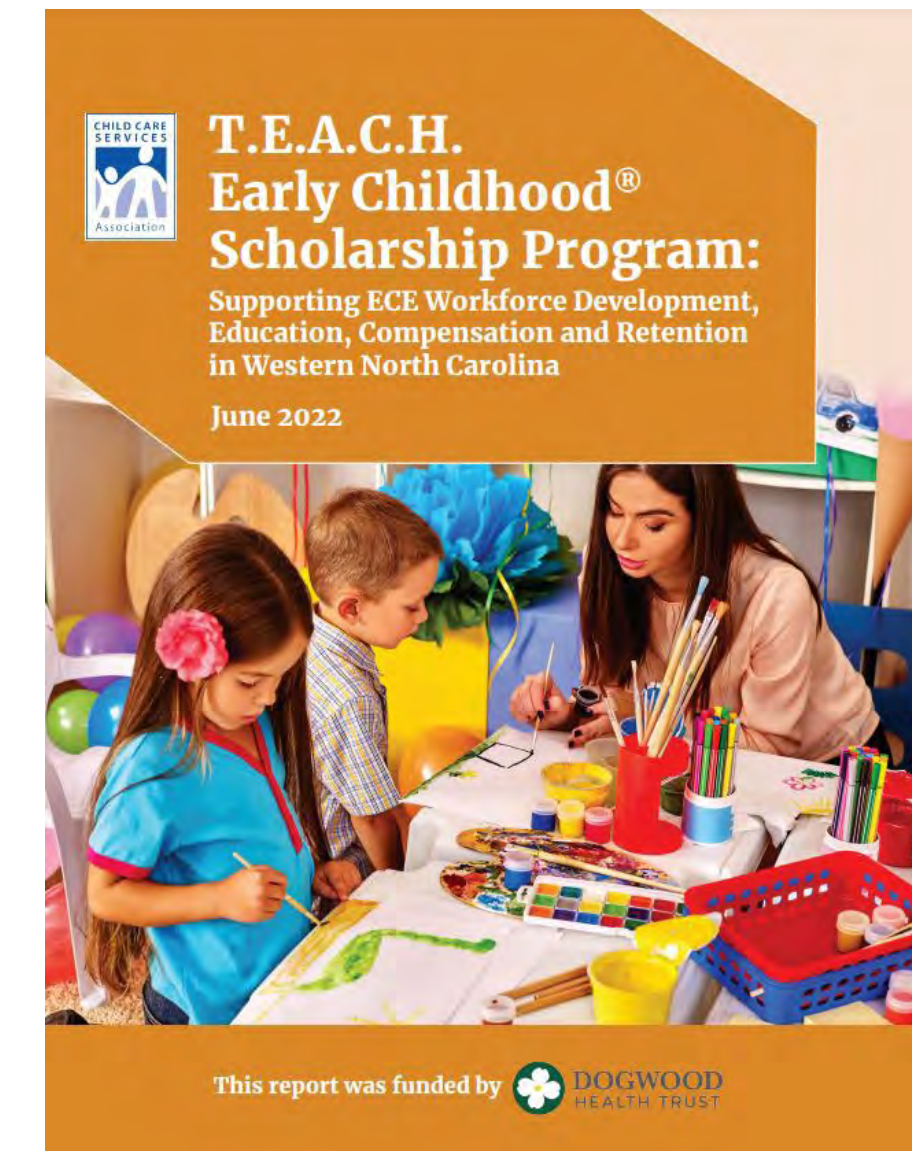
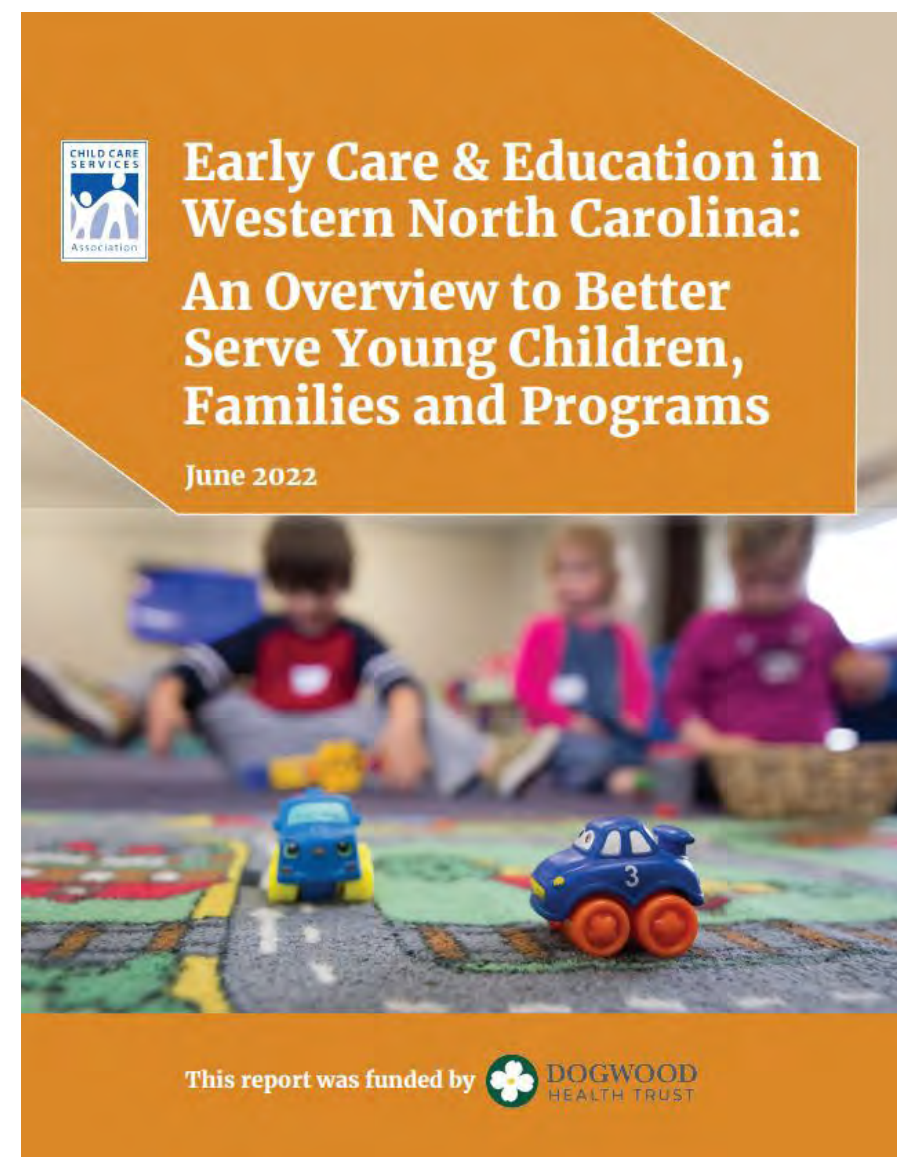
- Support K-12 learning experiences with the resources and sustainability to provide an excellent academic and social-emotional education, so that all students graduate ready for college or career.

Postsecondary

- In partnership with Economic Opportunity team, invest in programs aimed at reducing barriers to credential attainment that allow students of all ages to access employment opportunities that pay a family-sustaining wage.



What We're Learning



Summer Learning Recovery in Western North Carolina Voices From the Field

Dogwood Health Trust Partner Convening
October 2023



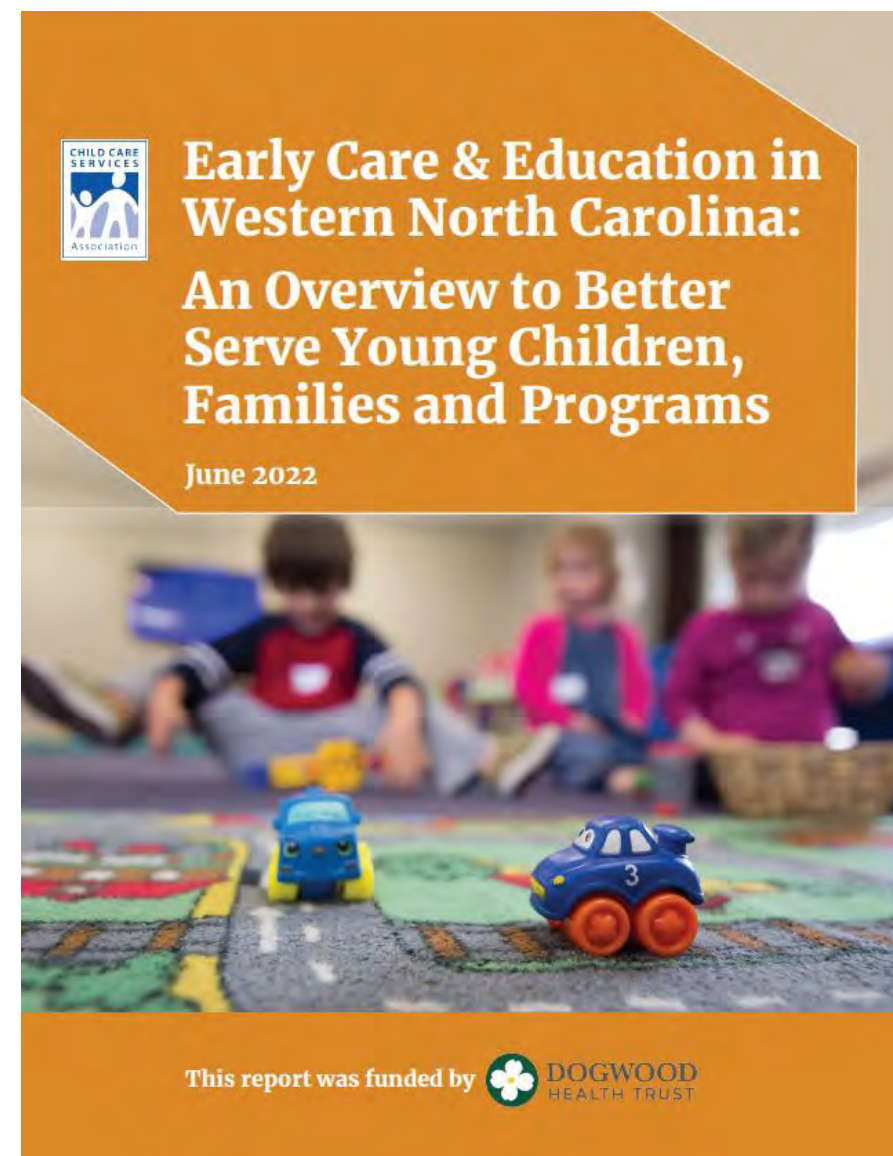
A Landscape Analysis of K-12 Education Outcomes in Western North Carolina

Authors: Kevin C. Bastian, Sarah C. Fuller, and Camille Mikkelsen

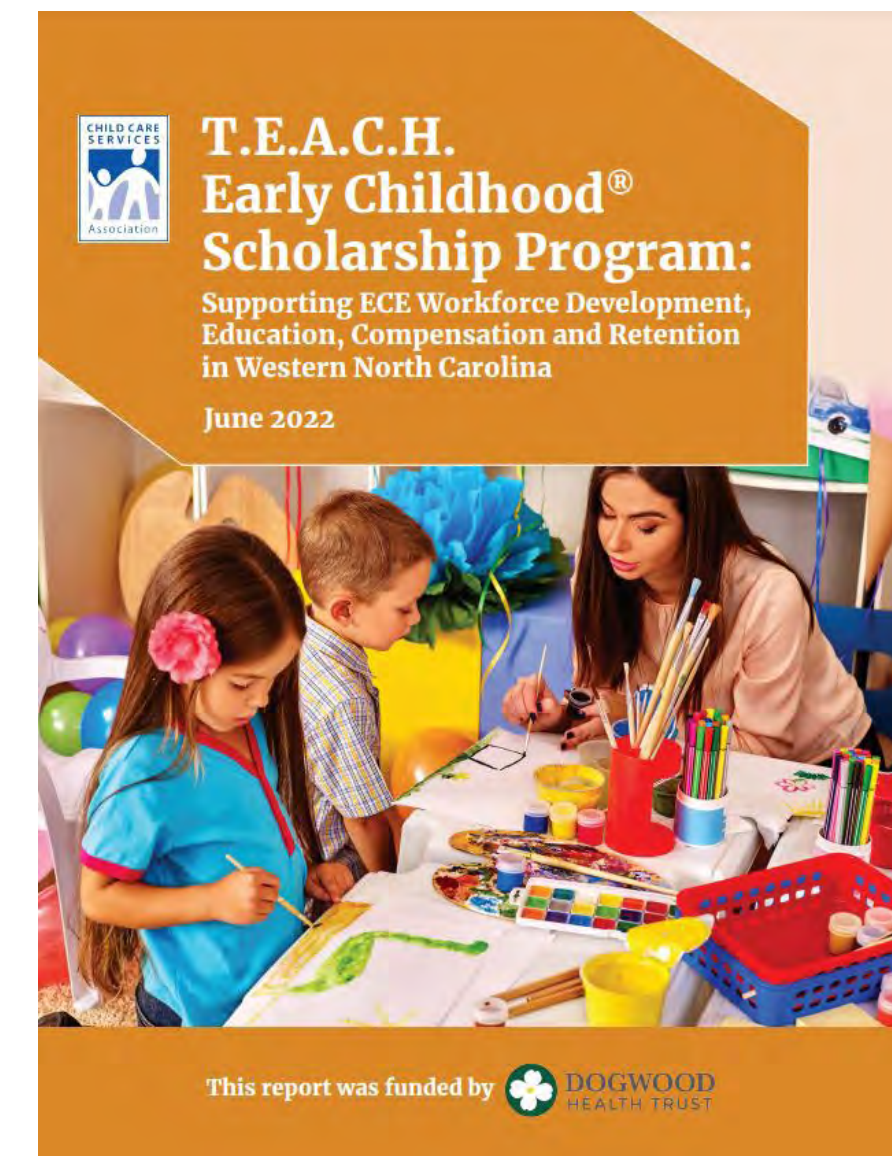
October 2022



Child Care Services Association (CCSA)



The report presents an overview of the early childhood education landscape across the geographical area served by Dogwood as of February 2022, and provides insights on changes due to the pandemic by comparing 2022 data with data from 2020 and 2019. A focus on children under three, i.e., infants and toddlers, is also provided.



The report includes a demographic profile of current scholarship recipients who are either working or living in the Dogwood service area; outcome data related to increased education, wage progression, retention and degree attainment; and a comparative analysis of outcome data from a pre-COVID-19 point in time to February 2022.



Upcoming CCSA Report

Goals:

- Conduct a qualitative research study to examine why early care and education workforce does the important work they do
- Provide a more in-depth, enriched explanation of the preliminary quantitative data received through the 2022-2023 statewide workforce study

Approach

- Engage in focus groups and interviews with ECE teachers, directors, and family childcare providers who work in licensed programs



CandL Findings



Childcare barriers are more pronounced in the western counties, with greater stress and frustration among parents and providers.

Trust	Affordability	Availability
<p>Star ratings are meaningless in counties which already have few childcare options.</p> <p><i>"I had a daycare that I loved [in a different county]. It's hard to find the same kind of care here. I don't care about ratings. I care about my child being taken care of." - Parent, Polk County</i></p> <p><i>"It's hard to get educators to go back to school for the classes to get a better star rating. Educators have family and there isn't time." - Provider, Clay County</i></p>	<p>Parents struggle to afford childcare and vouchers aren't an option for some parents who need them.</p> <p>Providers struggle to keep up with their own funding in order to stay open. They cannot increase prices and there is a lag in voucher reimbursement.</p> <p><i>"What we get paid went up 5% based off 2015 data. A 7-year delay for data." - Provider, Cherokee County</i></p>	<p>The western part of the state is a childcare desert, meaning many parents stay home with their child out of necessity, not choice.</p> <p>Parents highly value Head Start and Early Head Start, but access is limited in this part of the state.</p> <p><i>"We figured out that my child needed glasses at two years old because of Head Start." - Parent, Avery County</i></p> <p><i>"If the Federal government doesn't grant funds for Early Head Start then the State or Local governments need to step up!" - Provider, Graham County</i></p>



ECE Funding to Date

Grantmaking 2020 through 2023:

- 46 partners
- 62 grants totaling \$23,080,581
 - 65% for workforce development
 - 11% to ECE providers to assist with programming or expansion efforts
 - 9% for work focused on trauma-informed ECE curriculum and resiliency
 - 7% to K-12 districts for NC Pre-K expansion
 - 3% for ECE research and advocacy
 - 5% for other ECE-related efforts



Grants to Partners in Buncombe



Project Blazing Trails: Early Childhood Collegiate Support

- Goal is to increase the number of students successfully completing EDU 119 and advancing in their ECE career by providing them with additional academic support



El Telar: Shared Resources for Home-Based Childcare

- Goal is to reduce disparities in training and education for Latine network care providers by providing them with access to culturally competent training, materials, and resources



Developing the Center for Resilient Educators & Families

- Goal is to reduce turnover and increase the number of ECE staff who advance in their career by providing them with mental health and classroom management supports



Looking Ahead.....



dogwood
health trust

dht.org