

A diverse array of early childhood stakeholders work across the North Carolina's public and private sectors with the same goals – improve school readiness, access to and quality of child care, and essential support services for North Carolina's infants, toddlers, young children, and families.

The following captures the major state agencies, nonprofits, and university-based programs working in the early childhood space in North Carolina.

### **State Agencies**

#### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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##### **ABOUT:**

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is home to the vast majority of state and federally funded early childhood programs, including child care licensing and subsidy, and the NC pre-K Program.

##### **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide

##### **MAJOR PROGRAMS & CURRENT INITIATIVES:**

Development of the NC Early Childhood Action Plan; Child Care Subsidy/Financial Assistance (Child Care and Development Block Grant); Child Care Licensing; Child Care Workforce Online Reporting and Knowledge System; Birth-Kindergarten Education and Licensure for Early Educators Working in Nonpublic Schools; NC Pre-K Program; Criminal Background Checks for Individuals Working in Early Childhood Settings; Funds Child Care Resource and Referral System; IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program; Preschool Development Grant (Birth-Five); NC Early Childhood Action Plan; Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV); NC Medicaid (Transformation); Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS); Child Welfare Services; Triple P (Positive Parenting Program); Care Coordination for Children; Child Care Health Consultation; School Health; Early Hearing Detection and Intervention; Essentials for Childhood; Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

#### **NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

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##### **ABOUT:**

The NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) supports school districts serving students enrolled in grades K-3 and is home to the state's IDEA Part B (Section 619) Preschool Special Education program. DPI also houses the state's Head Start Collaboration Office.

##### **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide

##### **CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

IDEA Part B (619) Preschool Special Education; support of public school programs serving children from kindergarten to grade 3; Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA); Title 1 preschool and a PreK/K Demonstration Program; early learning standards.

### **Public-Private Partnership**

#### **NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN (SMART START)**

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##### **ABOUT:**

Created by former Governor Jim Hunt in 1993, Smart Start is the state's comprehensive public-private school readiness initiative. Community-level programming is administered through a network of 75 county-based and/or regional nonprofit Smart Start Partnerships. The NC Partnership for Children serves as the network's state-level funder and oversight mechanism.

##### **GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide via a network of 75 nonprofit Smart Start partnerships

##### **CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Smart Start partnerships across the state have flexibility to identify and fund evidence-based programs identified in their local communities. Partnership investments are heavily focused on childcare quality and subsidy, evidence-based home visitation, and literacy programs including The Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Partner in the Pathways to Grade-Level Reading initiative.

**Nonprofits****BEST NC****ABOUT:**

BEST NC is a nonpartisan nonprofit coalition of business leaders committed to improving North Carolina's education system through policy and advocacy.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Wide variety of advocacy and policy efforts related to K-12 education; partner of the Pathways to Grade-Level Reading initiative; contributing partner to the NC Early Childhood Action Plan; leading TeachNC.org initiative to recruit pre-K through 12 educators.

**CHILD CARE SERVICES ASSOCIATION (CCSA)****ABOUT:**

As a national nonprofit agency based in North Carolina, the Child Care Services Association is a leader and innovator in strengthening the early care and education system, both throughout NC and across the nation.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; National

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Classroom technical assistance, training, developmental screenings, referrals, scholarship programs; NC Babies First; PDG B5 grant application; Meal service program in Triangle.

**THE HUNT INSTITUTE****ABOUT:**

Established in 2001, The Hunt Institute honors the legacy of former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt. An affiliate of the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, The Hunt Institute is a recognized leader in the movement to transform public education. The Institute brings together people and resources that help build and nurture visionary leadership and mobilize strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; National

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Supporting collaboration among policymakers and stakeholders to move early childhood forward within states through annual convenings of state teams and ongoing technical assistance; provides on-demand research and analysis; engages state legislators in retreats, policy dinners, and site visits with a focus on early childhood topics.

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN****ABOUT:**

NCAEYC is a professional membership association of professionals working in early childhood that works to serve and connect members to: each other, resources, networks, high quality professional development, and advocacy opportunities.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; Affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Early childhood workforce development; developmentally appropriate practice; wellness and well-being of children and adults; professionalization of the field.

## NC CHILD

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### ABOUT:

NC Child is a children's advocacy organization advancing public policies to ensure all children – regardless of race, ethnicity, or place of birth – have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Statewide

### CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:

NC Kids Count Grantee/Data Center; Annual legislative agenda, which currently includes: 1) Expanding Access to Affordable Healthcare, 2) Early Childhood Education, 3) Raising the Age for Adult Incarceration, 4) Census Funding, and 5) Suicide Prevention. Also a partner in the Pathways to Grade Level Reading initiative.

## NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL COUNCIL (CC&R)

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### ABOUT:

CCR&R provides an interrelated set of services to families, child care providers, employers, and communities that: facilitate access to early care and education and school-age child care options for families; improve the quality of those child care options; and provide objective information for planning and policy development to the public and private sectors.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Statewide; CCR&R Council is comprised of 14 regional agencies across the state that, collectively, serve all 100 counties.

### CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:

Child care resources and referral services including consumer education and referral, professional development and training, technical assistance, data collection and analysis, and public awareness.

## NORTH CAROLINA EARLY CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION (NCECF)

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### ABOUT:

Focused on the needs of children from birth through age eight, the NCECF works to promote understanding, spearhead collaboration, and advance policies to ensure each North Carolina child is on track by the end of third grade.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Statewide

### CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:

Pathways to Grade Level Reading and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading; Family Forward NC; Early Learning and the *Every Student Succeeds Act*; local Financing for Early Learning Toolkit; First 2000 Days Campaign.

## NORTH CAROLINA EARLY EDUCATION COALITION (NCEEC)

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### ABOUT:

The NC Early Education Coalition is a statewide advocacy coalition dedicated to promoting high-quality, accessible and affordable childcare in North Carolina. Its membership includes statewide organizations, regional and local childcare agencies, child care providers, and individuals committed to improving the quality of child care and early childhood education in North Carolina.

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:

Statewide

### CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:

Think Babies Campaign (Zero to Three); National Collaborative for Infants-Toddlers (Pritzker Children's Initiative); Focus on Child Care Assistance, Availability and Workforce.

**NORTH CAROLINA HEAD START ASSOCIATION (NCHSA)**

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**ABOUT:**

NCHSA is a membership association for Head Start grantees that works to support advocacy efforts at the state and federal level and provide professional development and networking opportunities.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; NCHSA represents 59 Head Start grantees across North Carolina.

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Professional development for the early childhood workforce

**PREVENT CHILD ABUSE NC**

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**ABOUT:**

Prevent Child Abuse NC is a statewide organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Child abuse prevention programs including: Circle of Parents; The Incredible Years (IY) BASIC Preschool and School Age Parent Programs; Strengthening Families Program 6-11 (SFP); and Triple P Positive Parenting Program.

**T.E.A.C.H. NATIONAL CENTER**

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**ABOUT:**

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) is a national program based in Chapel Hill through which early childhood teachers can access scholarship supports designed to advance their education and compensation.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; National

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

T.E.A.C.H., and the companion WAGE\$ program (both implemented in North Carolina), support salary supplements associated with educational attainment for early childhood educators.

**University Centers****DUKE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY**

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**ABOUT:**

Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy works identify of science-based solutions to problems affecting today's children and families. The Center emphasizes the bridge from research to policy and practice through an integrated system of research, teaching, service, and policy engagement.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; National

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

Center research includes a number of projects impacting children and families. Faculty fellows focus on the effect of economic distress on child development, study early childhood, the development of risky behaviors, and childhood mental illness. In North Carolina, the Center created the Family Connects home visiting program in Durham County.

**FRANK PORTER GRAHAM CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (UNC)**

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**ABOUT:**

UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute is one of the nation's oldest, largest and most respected multidisciplinary centers devoted to the study of children and their families.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:**

Statewide; National

**CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES:**

About 275 researchers, implementation and technical assistance specialists, staff, and students work on more than 60 projects related to: developmental disabilities, early care and education, physical, social, and emotional health, and racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity.

**Current Early Childhood Collaborations**

There are several collaborations working in the early childhood space that span multiple agencies and organizations. Listed from most recently established, the following is a list of collaborative efforts currently or recently active in North Carolina.

**THE HUNT INSTITUTE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP SUMMIT - NORTH CAROLINA STATE TEAM**

*In partnership with the Build initiative*

[Learn More](#)

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**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2019

**ESTABLISHED BY:** The Hunt Institute

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** N/A

**Members:**

Representative Ashton Clemmons, Representative Craig Horn, Senator Rick Horner, Susan Perry-Manning (Principal Deputy Secretary, DHHS), Donna White (Vice President, Smart Start), Michele Rivest (Executive Director, NC Child Care Coalition).

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Systems building; legislative and gubernatorial engagement with systems and department leadership.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

Establish a bicameral, bipartisan early childhood caucus; meaningful release of Kindergarten Entry Assessment data, and advance passage of legislation to improve policies impacting early childcare providers and educators.

**PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT B5 PARTNERS**

[Learn More](#)

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**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2019

**ESTABLISHED BY:** Federal Grant

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** NC DHHS

**Members:**

Key partners include North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC), Head Start Collaboration Office, North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF), and Child Care Services Association (CCSA).

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Statewide B-5 Needs assessment and strategic plan (building on the Early Childhood Action Plan); Family engagement; expanding local best practices; enhancing early childhood education data within NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System; increasing access to high-quality infant/toddler care.

## PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT B5 PARTNERS - CONTINUED

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

Report on needs assessment was to be completed by September 30, 2019. Final Report will be completed by December 31, 2019. North Carolina will be submitting an application for the next round of funding by November 5, 2019.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2018

**ESTABLISHED BY:** Governor Roy Cooper

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** Office of the Governor

**Members:**

Up to 25 members (22 currently) representing DHHS (4), Head Start (2), DPI (1), higher education (2), Office of State Budget and Management (1), NC Partnership for Children (1), child care providers (2), LEAs (1), parents/consumers (2), and up to nine (9) others.

**Focus of Collaborative:**

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided grants to 45 states to create governor-appointed Early Childhood Advisory Councils. Create and guide bold action plan; support alignment; promote measurement; build public will; advance policy; mobilize funding.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

[North Carolina's Early Childhood Action Plan](#) and [Medicaid Expansion Letter to General Assembly](#).

## PRITZKER CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE STATE TEAM

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2018

**ESTABLISHED BY:** Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI)

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** NC Early Education Coalition

**Members:**

NC Early Education Coalition, NC DHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education, and the NC Early Childhood Foundation. Also participating at The Hunt Institute's 2018 Prenatal to 3 Years Summit as part of the "PCI state team" were representatives from: the Governor's Office, Durham County, MomsRising.org, TEACH Early Childhood National Center, NC Partnership for Children/Smart Start, Best NC, and Child Care Services Association.

**Focus of Collaborative:**

The NC Early Education Coalition, NC DHHS, and NC Early Childhood Foundation each received funding from Pritzker Children's Initiative designed to create and support the advancement of a statewide policy agenda for children prenatal to three.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

Development of a Prenatal-to-age-three Policy Agenda. Grant funding from the Pritzker Children's Initiative will end in June 2020.

## ZERO TO THREE THINK BABIES CAMPAIGN

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2018

**ESTABLISHED BY:** Zero To Three

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** NC Early Childhood Coalition (NCECC) and Child Care Services Association (CCSA)

**Members:**

N/A

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Quality Affordable Child Care, time for parents to bond with their babies, nurturing healthy emotional development, and promoting strong physical health and nutrition.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

2019 policy priorities outlined [here](#).

## B-3 INTERAGENCY COUNCIL

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2017

**ESTABLISHED BY:** NC Legislature via S257

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** NC DHHS and NC DPI

**Members:**

Senator Deanna Ballard, Senator Rick Horner, Dr. Nancy Brown (NC Partnership for Children), Kevin Campbell (NC Licensed Child Care Association); Representative Josh Dobson; Elisha Freeman (Child and Family Resource Center), Susan Gates (SAS), Representative Craig Horn, Susan Perry Manning (DHHS), Dr. Sharon Ritchie (FPG), Cindy Watkins (NC Partnership for Children), Dr. Linda White (Edenton Chowan Schools). Previous committee members include Tracey Zimmerman, Senator Michael Lee, and Pam Shue (DPI).

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Establish a vision and accountability for a birth through grade three system of early education.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

[Report](#) focused on transitions and continuity, data driven improvement and outcomes, and teacher and administrator preparation and effectiveness submitted on February 15, 2019 to legislature.

## INVEST EARLY NC

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2016

**ESTABLISHED BY:** ChildTrust Foundation and Winer Family Foundation

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** ChildTrust Foundation, Winer Family Foundation, and North Carolina Network of Grantmakers

**Members:**

No official membership, but regular partners represent a broad range of approximately 20 private, community, and corporate foundations.

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Systems-focused efforts in three broad areas: engagement to expanding learning and awareness; investment to support proof of concept and system building, and advocacy for infrastructure, policy, and programs that improve outcomes.

**Active/Inactive:**

Active

**Deliverables:**

N/A

**Inactive Early Childhood Collaborations**

The following collaborations appear to be no longer active. Information reflected below includes publicly reported membership and goals from the collaboration while they were active.

**NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION (NGA)/COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS (CCSSO) WORKFORCE TEAM**

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2018

**ESTABLISHED BY:** National Governors Association (NGA); funded by W.K. Kellogg, Alliance for Early Success, Foundation for Child Development, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** N/A

**Members:**

NC DHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education (Anna Carter), Child Care Services Association (Marsha Basloe), Office of the Governor (Jessica Englert and Kristen Guillory), and NC Dept. of Commerce (Annie Izod) all attended the NGA/CCSSO meeting; there may have been additional members on the larger team.

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Early childhood workforce

**Active/Inactive:**

N/A

**Deliverables:**

States will be creating action plans and NGA will be providing technical assistance.

**SAS/RUTGERS GROUP**

[Learn More](#)

**YEAR ESTABLISHED:** 2018

**ESTABLISHED BY:** SAS

**LEAD AGENCY/PARTNER:** SAS

**Members:**

National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University, Bank of America, SAS, PNC, Medical Mutual Insurance Company of North Carolina, Red Hat, AT&T, National Gypsum, Ingersoll Rand, and other businesses (13 total).

**Focus of Collaborative:**

Three interrelated issues critical to expanding the NC pre-K program: accurately determining how many children are eligible for NC pre-K but lack access; analyzing whether county “waiting lists” reflect the actual need and demand for NC pre-K, and barriers to expanding NC pre-K to fully meet the need.

**Active/Inactive:**

Inactive

**Deliverables:**

Report from NEEIR, [“Barriers to Expansion of the NC Pre-K: Problems and Potential Solutions.”](#)