

Data Development Plan for Child Care Measures
NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council, December 13, 2021

The following measures were prioritized for data development in the [NC Early Childhood Data Development Strategy](#) developed by the [Early Childhood Data Advisory Council \(ECDAC\)](#). See proposed next steps for data development in North Carolina below:

1. Estimated eligible children under age six receiving child care subsidies disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income and age of child.

- NC DHHS' Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) will access this NC FAST (Families Accessing Services through Technology) data using Client Services Data Warehouse (CSDW) and disaggregate it by race/ethnicity, income, and child date of birth.
 - As of 12/10/21, income data is inaccurate in CSDW. DCDEE is working to correct it.
- Aggregated data will be available on DCDEE's public data dashboard and by request. Public disaggregated data can be made available on request while following NC DHHS small cell suppression guidelines.

2. Families paying 10 percent or less of their income on child care, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, income and age of child.

- Because we do not currently have income data for all NC families accessing child care with and without subsidies, Child Care Resources Inc., (CCRI), on behalf of the NC Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Council and DCDEE will collaborate to approximate this measure based on a similar process used by [Child Care Aware of America using annually supplied CCRI data](#).
 - Using the average annual cost (statewide and by county) of licensed child care for child care centers and family child care homes by age (i.e., infants, toddlers, and four-year olds), CCRI will correlate the cost of care with State Median Income (SMI) data for single parents and married couples and disaggregate this data by race/ethnicity using American Community Survey data (Table S1903).
 - Private paying families using child care frequently spend more than 10% of their gross household income to afford child care fees. Most families receiving child care subsidy are typically required to pay 10% of gross household income as family copayment for child care subsidy. During the pandemic, this parent copayment fee has been waived off and on and currently is being temporarily waived with ARPA funds.
- Other considerations:
 - Explore adding or expanding child care affordability questions in state surveys to obtain additional data (e.g., alternative market rate study). See workgroup notes for survey question ideas from Colorado.
 - Data for this measure should be responsibly communicated and used. Message should focus on needing more support for child care, not just that child care is too expensive.

Federal and State Goals:

- NC Early Childhood Action Plan Target for Goal 8:
 - By 2025, decrease the percent of family income spent on child care, according to data provided by [Child Care Aware America](#) (p 6-16).
 - Infant Care: Decrease from 11.6% to 7.0%
 - Toddler Care: Decrease from 10.5% to 7.0%
 - Four-Year-Olds: Decrease from 10.0% to 7.0%

- Build Back Better Act Goal:
 - Most families pay no more than 7% of their household income on child care.

