



e Key to Our Futures: Expanding Access to High Quality Preschool

Today's Presenters

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Child Care Resource & Referral Director for Buncombe Partnership
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The Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative

The Vision

To ensure that every child age birth to five in Asheville and Buncombe County has access to high-quality, affordable early care and education.

The Purpose

Within the next five years, our purpose is to increase access to affordable, high quality preschool for three- and four-year-olds in Asheville and Buncombe County, with a priority on children and families who are currently experiencing the greatest barriers to access.

Why focus on 3 & 4 year olds?

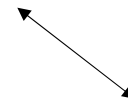
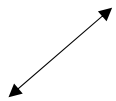
- **Preschool expansion is the most fiscally viable expansion & provides the next step upstream from kindergarten**
- **By increasing access to 4 year olds, we will provide seats for younger children aging up**
- **Many families surveyed want preschool for social and learning experiences with children their age**

The Value of the Collaborative and the People Involved

Steering
Committee



Collaborative Team



Research

Communications

Quality
Model
Design

Workforce

Funding
Model



Our Inclusive Approach

Collaborative Team and Work Groups

A wide range of stakeholders beyond those working in the field of ECE

Extensive Family Survey

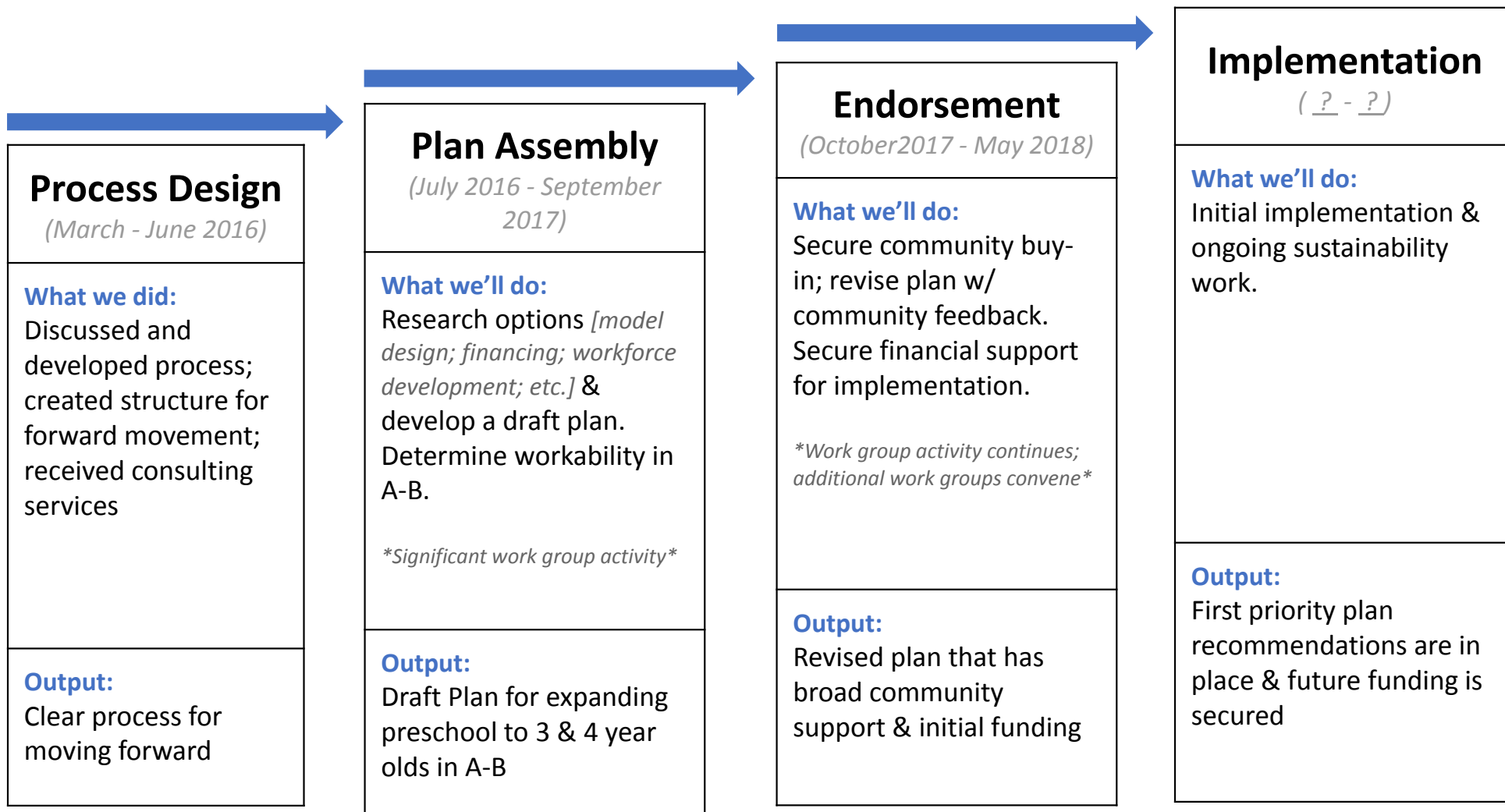
Over 600 respondents

Early Care and Education Providers

Provider surveys & listening sessions



A-B Preschool Planning Collaborative Work Phases



Local Preschool Expansion in NC

- Forsyth
- Durham
- Guilford
- Wake




Current Need and Climate in Buncombe County



- High Demand
- Lack of Available Slots
- Workforce Shortage

Need for Highly Qualified Teachers

- Teaching is meaningful but stressful, and profession is undervalued
 - 30% drop in enrollees in NC colleges for ECE/BK programs
 - Limited local opportunities for pursuing Higher Ed in ECE
 - Recruitment and retention challenges
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Prohibitive Cost of Care

For Preschool Programs:

Current public funding does not cover the full cost of high quality care

For Families:

71.5% of parents surveyed who did not send their children to preschool said it was **too expensive**

Creating the Model: Community Input

- 91% of respondents stated they need or want preschool for their children
- More than 2/3 of parents want access to preschool so they can work; 18% want care so they can go to school
- The majority of parents (59.5%) need or want preschool full-time either year-round or during the school year

The Quality Model

- Based on research & community insight
- High standards for teachers, administrators, & programs
- Best practices for children, families, and teachers

Building on NC Pre-K for the Buncombe County Quality Model

- Consistent high quality standards in a variety of program settings
- A focus on workforce & ongoing program support
- Sharing services



Using the Quality Model to Determine Cost of Care

- **Assigning costs to model requirements, keeping in mind:**
 - Living wage
 - Increasing teacher education
 - Supporting best classroom practices
- **Creating cost models to meet family & provider needs**

Cost for Increased Access to High Quality Care

FULL DAY, FULL YEAR		SCHOOL DAY, FULL YEAR		SCHOOL DAY SCHOOL YEAR		FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME	
ENTRY	GOAL	ENTRY	GOAL	ENTRY	GOAL	ENTRY	GOAL
\$9,697	\$10,774	\$6,711	\$7,470	\$5,650	\$6,296	\$6,296	\$6,384

Costs Compared to Other Models

- Head Start, NC Pre-K, Subsidy, others
- Projecting expansion costs based on
 - Available children
 - Saturation rate research



Potential Financing Strategies

- Financing training by NC Early Childhood Foundation
- Early Childhood Financing Toolkit
- Research financing options for Buncombe County

Next Steps – Phase III Work

- Identify most likely sources of funding
- Host focus groups
- Launch a public education campaign
- Conduct polling to assess community support for funding
- Collaborate with NC communities working on preschool expansion



How You Can Help

- Continue your strong financial support of comprehensive early childhood services
- Provide support and guidance around financing strategies
- Support our public education campaign
- Find opportunities to work together to and for you to
- Consider ways to financially support preschool expansion

For more information on the Asheville Buncombe
Preschool Planning Collaborative visit our website:

www.abppc.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

