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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Feb-20</th>
<th>May-20</th>
<th>Sept-21</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children enrolled (ages 0-12)</td>
<td>5473</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>5030</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># facilities (serving ages 0-12)</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY 2019-20: Percent of 1-5 star centers with at least 75% of lead teachers with college degrees
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children in Care</th>
<th>Infants</th>
<th>1 yr olds</th>
<th>2 yr olds</th>
<th>3 yr olds</th>
<th>4 yr olds</th>
<th>5 yr old PS</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children in licensed care</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>3,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total available child population</td>
<td>2297</td>
<td>2400</td>
<td>2393</td>
<td>2468</td>
<td>2532</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>12,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of all children served (A/B)</td>
<td><strong>7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>17%</strong></td>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
<td><strong>36%</strong></td>
<td><strong>46%</strong></td>
<td><strong>64%</strong></td>
<td><strong>29%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children not being served (does not imply need) B-A)</td>
<td>2,128</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>1,806</td>
<td>1,570</td>
<td>1,377</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>9,203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 31\textsuperscript{st}

• 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Service (435 slots)</td>
<td>$2,295,220</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$139,619</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality/CCDF</td>
<td>$45,082</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Contracted Funds</strong></td>
<td>$2,479,921</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Monthly STATE Rate Per Child</th>
<th>Monthly LOCAL Rate Per Child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Providers</td>
<td>$600 to $650</td>
<td>$728*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>$473</td>
<td>$530*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>$300 to $400</td>
<td>$344 to $400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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