

WAKE COUNTY



SMART
START

2016–2017

PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In Fiscal Year 2016-17, Wake County SmartStart (WCSS) celebrated its 20th year of capacity building efforts supporting families and the community in preparing children for success in school and in life. The month-long celebration in April included multiple events that engaged all stakeholders connected to the work of WCSS. The celebration also incorporated the announcement of WCSS's new strategic plan focused on deeper integration of system level improvement goals. In the past three years WCSS has spearheaded efforts around early childhood system level work and sustainability, such as partnerships with funding entities and coordinated access to home-based services, in order to leverage the broad impact of collaborative endeavors and make the most efficient use of critical, limited resources. This commitment to system level improvements going forward was strengthened by the WCSS Board during the strategic planning process for FY2017-20. Using the NC Pathways to Grade Level Reading framework, the Board identified specific systems level goals, objectives, and strategies. WCSS efforts to diversify funding continued in FY2016-17 leveraging additional resources from local public and private sources and allowing the agency to expand its footprint in the community.

The four goal areas associated with each funded program:

GOAL AREAS

 Goal 1 Children are in safe, supportive home environments. <hr/> 4 Programs	 Goal 2 Children are in high quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes. <hr/> 6 Programs
 Goal 3 Children are healthy and developmentally ready for school. <hr/> 5 Programs	 Goal 4 Children and families are supported by a strong, diverse, integrated early childhood system. <hr/> 4 Programs



COUNTY LEVEL DATA

As the second most populous county in North Carolina, Wake County continues to grow at a faster rate than the state as a whole, with an estimated population of 1,029,789 (2016 Certified County Population Estimates – NC State Demographer). The county has averaged a nearly 2% growth rate each year for the past three years, while the overall state rate has been closer to 1% each year.

- There were an estimated 68,513 children birth to five not yet in Kindergarten living in Wake County in 2016, reflecting relative stability over the past several years.
- There were 522 child care facilities in Wake County, a 5% overall decrease since 2014. This reduction in facilities continues to reflect fewer low quality 1- and 2-star facilities.
- The number of 4- and 5-star facilities remained at 309. With the overall reduction in number of licensed facilities, 4- and 5-star facilities represented almost 60% of the total, up from 57% in the previous year.
- There were 21,643 children birth to five in regulated child care, a slight increase from the prior fiscal year. Of these children, 16,265 children were served in 4- and 5-star facilities, representing 75% of children in care.

While significant progress has been made in providing services to young children in need, it remains a challenge for expansion efforts to keep pace with the number of children in families with limited resources.

- In 2016, there were over 28,379¹ (36.8%) low-income children birth to five in Wake County living in households below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This represents a 4% increase in the number of children over the previous year. Approximately half of these children were below 100% of the FPL.
- At the end of the year, 641 children were listed on the subsidy waitlist, a 60% decrease from FY2015-16. This continues a trend of lower waitlist numbers compared to prior years, possibly due to improved management of the waitlist, as well as additional funding.

¹ Figure based on 2015 5-year ACS Census estimate, most recent available at this time. Representation of poverty by age group in 2015 1-year ACS estimate is less accurate due to more significant margin of error.



WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART PROGRAMS AND FUNDING

Over the FY2014-17 three year funding cycle, WCSS managed a complex set of services and funding streams totaling over \$57 million. For FY2016-17, WCSS allocated \$12,238,680 in Smart Start funds to nineteen (19) programs that served children, families, and child care facilities. John Rex Endowment provided \$272,177 in grants to address high priority community needs. An additional \$5,905,836 was received from the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) along with a \$488,592 grant from Wake County to fund NC Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K).

WCSS and all funded programs prioritize services to children in families with limited resources and additional risk factors and to the child care facilities that serve this population. WCSS has utilized this definition of children with "greatest need" for over 10 years in order to target available resources.

The following highlights demonstrate the impact of the programs funded through WCSS:

- All programs met the criteria for evidenced-based or evidence-informed practices. In order to demonstrate a strong impact, 58% (11 of 19) of programs continued use of standardized tools to measure outcome results.
- 80% (53 of 66) of outcome targets were achieved within at least 90% of their projection/goal. This percentage is roughly consistent with last year.



FUNDED PROGRAMS

The programs funded by Wake County SmartStart in FY2016 – 17 included:

- *Administrator/Quality Development (Child Care Services Association - CCSA)*
- *Assuring Better Child Health and Development - ABCD (Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties)*
- *Child Care Health Consultant Program (Wake County Human Services – WCHS)*
- *Child Care Subsidy Program (WCHS)*
- *Community Outreach and Education (WCSS)*
- *Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters - HIPPY (Family Resource Center - South Atlantic)*
- *Literacy Invites and Nurtures Kids Success (Motheread)*
- *NC Pre-Kindergarten Program (WCSS)*
- *Nurse-Family Partnership (WCHS)*
- *The Nurturing Program for Spanish Speaking Families (SAFEchild)*

- *Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program (Wake County Public School System - Office of Early Learning - WCPSS-OEL)*
- *Program Coordination and Evaluation (WCSS)*
- *Reach Out and Read (WCSS)*
- *Improving and Sustaining Quality Child Care (WCSS)*
- *Child Care Program Quality Supplements (WCSS/CCSA)*
- *School Readiness Services for Hispanic Children (Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.)*
- *Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children: SecurePath (Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood)*
- *Supporting School Readiness (WCPSS - OEL)*
- *WAKE Up and Read (WCPSS)*

For more information about funded programs and grant funded initiatives, see the Individual Activity Reports section.



GOAL AREA IMPACT



Goal 1: Children are in safe, supportive home environments.



Goal 3: Children are healthy and developmentally ready for school.

WCSS has two goals focused on the well-being of children and families. These goal areas recognize the critical role that family caregiving and high quality Pre-K environments play in promoting children's health and development. In total, nine programs were funded in these goal areas.

A total of 2,230 children (including 1,298 served in Pre-K classrooms), 839 families, and 28 pediatric practices were directly served by WCSS funded programs; 96% (2,151 children) met the greatest need criteria. An increase in children served compared to last year is largely due to 100 additional children served by NC Pre-K. Services to pediatric practices impacted over 1,000 Medicaid-eligible children through distribution of literacy materials and books.

Services provided include:

- 6,959 home visits
- 1,366 developmental screenings
- 1,021 books distributed
- 331 parent group sessions
- 78 NC Pre-K classrooms provided high quality learning environments

Impact includes:

- 374 of 550 families in five programs achieved at least one of the Goal 1 outcomes below:
 - accessed a needed service
 - improved parenting knowledge and/or attitudes
 - improved parent - child interaction
- 993 of 1849 children in six programs achieved at least one of the Goal 3 outcomes below:
 - improved developmental readiness for school
 - accessed a needed service to support health or development



Goal 2: Children are in high quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes.

High quality child care remains a priority goal for WCSS. Although much progress has been made, turnover, regulatory changes, and new measures of quality continue to drive the need for this work. Six programs were funded in Goal Area 2 and focused on improving and ensuring high quality care that contributes to positive child outcomes. A total of 290 licensed child care facilities (57% of all licensed facilities in the county) received on-site consultation or training from WCSS-funded programs. WCSS continues to prioritize services to children with greatest need, with 207 of the facilities serving children on subsidy. This represents 70% of the child care facilities in Wake County that serve children in families receiving subsidy. Over 14,571 children birth to five attended facilities that received services through WCSS-funded programs, representing 67% of all children birth to five in child care.

Services provided include:

- payment for 960 children birth to five to access 4- or 5-star child care facilities
- 2,723 on-site consultation, coaching, or training visits

Impact includes:

- 61 facilities improved practices related to health and safety, literacy, and child care quality – affecting 3,627 children birth to five in those centers.
- The average star rating for centers serving children receiving WCSS subsidy payment increased from 4.66 to 4.77.



Goal 4: Children and families are supported by a strong, diverse, integrated early childhood system.

Strengthening the early childhood system remains an intentional focus of WCSS. In FY2016-17 four activities were funded to address Goal 4. Sixty programs, medical practices, and businesses were engaged in system level work and approximately 10,000 Medicaid eligible children were indirectly impacted through system level work to improve developmental screening and referral processes.

Services provided include:

- over 700 community engagement contacts with programs and business representatives across Wake County
- over 300 engagement and information sharing contacts with pediatric practices to improve developmental screenings

Impact includes:

- Development of a WCSS Collaboration Survey used by two programs to measure the quality of collaborative practices among program representatives meeting regularly to address community needs. The average pre/post score of the 14 participants increased by 24% over the past two years, from 3.41 to 4.24 on a 5 point scale. Clear progress was made in practices associated with successful collaborative efforts.
- WCSS funded partners continued to capture system level work as required for Goal areas 1-3 outcomes. These outcomes primarily related to participation in three community collaboratives: Wake Connections Advisory Board, Technical Assistance Collaborative for Child Care Centers, and the NC Pre-K Application Collaborative. Participation in these collaboratives promoted information sharing that resulted in the development of a joint child care technical assistance database, strengthened communication among home visiting partners, and improved community outreach efforts.



COLLABORATIVE GRANT IMPACT

WCSS works collectively with community agencies to identify needs and create solutions. The following community collaborations – funded by John Rex Endowment – support the Board's strategic planning goals.

Wake Connections

The Wake Connections project was a WCSS response to a community need raised by the Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) for a coordinated system to connect children and families to home-based services. John Rex Endowment generously funded grants for assessment and planning, implementation, and in 2016, the project was awarded a three-year expansion grant.

Wake Connections contributes to the system improvement focus of Goal 4 in the WCSS Strategic Plan, supporting children and families with a strong, diverse, integrated early childhood system. Wake Connections delivers an integrated referral and linkage platform to efficiently connect families with home-based and group services based on need. In FY2016-17, Wake Connections added a new partner program and expanded the type of service to linkage options available to the community, with nine group and home visiting programs accepting system referrals.



As a part of the expansion activities, the project also developed and launched a new custom database to administer the system in the community, used for linkage by 37 organizations and directly by families seeking support.

Farm to Child Care (F2CC)

The goal of the three-year program is to change eating habits that contribute to childhood obesity and to build a procurement system where child care facilities can purchase local produce. Community partners include Advocates for Health in Action (AHA), Wake Cooperative Extension, and NC State University, as well as local farmer connections. F2CC contributes to the success of WCSS Strategic Plan Goal 3 to promote children's health and development.

Specifically, F2CC increases children's access to resources that support healthy nutrition. Local sources of fresh fruits and vegetables are connected to child care facilities for children's meals and snacks through the F2CC program. Facilities that serve low-income families are prioritized for participation. In FY2016-17, child care cooks were trained on how to prepare fresh produce, child care staff learned methods of purchasing fresh, local produce, and collaborations with local farmers were established.

Preventing Obesity by Design – Wake County (POD-Wake)

The goal of this project, in collaboration with the Natural Learning Initiative of NC State University College of Design, is to prevent childhood obesity. In FY2016-17 interactive design sessions were held for child care facilities who worked collaboratively with designers from the Natural Learning Initiative to transform their playground into an outdoor learning environment. Fruit and vegetable gardens were fully designed and installed, increasing production of fresh food for children within the centers. The creation of natural outdoor learning environments encouraged children's active involvement in outdoor play, healthy nutrition, and exercise.

Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant (EHS-CCP)

Funded through Telamon Head Start, the EHS-CCP grant provides support for local child care facilities to enroll infants and toddlers living in low-income families. Quality care and early education increases access to healthy and enriching experiences for Wake County's youngest children. Classroom quality which benefits all children and their families is enhanced through identification of environmental and teacher-child interaction needs, technical assistance to address these needs, and active engagement of families in the early education of their young children.

Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children, an initiative of Smart Start and the BCBSNC Foundation²

In 2017, WCSS was awarded a Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children grant from Smart Start and the BCBSNC Foundation. The goal of Shape NC is to increase the number of children starting Kindergarten at a healthy weight. This study will determine how healthy initiative interventions positively impact:

- nutrition and physical activity practices and policies at child care centers,
- children's weight before entering Kindergarten, and
- children's attitudes towards healthy food and physical activity.

² *Shape NC is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Social Innovation Fund. WCSS began managing Shape NC locally in March 2017.*

WAKE COUNTY



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INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY REPORTS

Activity:	Assuring Better Child Development and Health (ABCD)		Funding History	
Agency:	Community Care of Wake & Johnston Counties		FY 2016-17:	\$41,015
Goal Area:	4	Years funded: 3	FY 2015-16:	\$38,132
Description: The Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) model improves the quality of child development services in primary care medical practices by enhancing developmental screening and referral for children ages birth-5 in the context of the medical home. The project provides training and on-site technical assistance to medical practice sites to facilitate the identification of children who may benefit from early intervention services and collaborates with community partners to ensure follow-up to the practices regarding referral and treatment plans.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$41,015*	\$40,496	>95%	99%
Match: \$7,793	\$6,096	19% of allocation	15%
Staff levels: .75 FTE	Fully staffed 11- 12 months		

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
30 community organizations and medical practices receiving outreach and engagement, information sharing contacts	30	100%	100%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
225 individual or group outreach, engagement, information sharing contacts	316	100%	140%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
16 practices will increase the rate of use of developmental screenings	13 of 19	75%	68%
56 children who are identified with developmental concerns will be referred for further assessment or services	36 of 74	70%	49%
15 practices will increase rate of referrals	9 of 19	75%	47%
Feedback will be received for 22 children referred for Early Intervention services (CDSA or Pre-School Services only)	15 of 36	60%	42%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
50% of all Level 2 and 3 practices will contribute to improved service delivery system through use of the referral process for children to CDSA or Pre-School Services	19 of 26 (73%) met outcome

Activity:	Administrator/Quality Development		Funding History		
Agency:	Child Care Services Association		FY 2016-17:	\$151,083	
Goal Area:	2	Years funded:	3	FY 2015-16:	\$145,271
Description: Administrator and Quality Development will provide consultation and training to facilities that serve children on Subsidy. Services will include 10-20 on site visits to assist with the NAEYC accreditation process. Community of Practice meetings will also be implemented to support this process. In addition, an Administrator Leadership Academy will be implemented for administrators in need of stronger fiscal and management practices. Eligibility for specific services will depend on current licensing points and center goals.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$151,083*	\$151,083	>95%	100%
Match: \$28,706	\$29,901	19% of allocation	19.8%
Staff levels: 2.125 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
35 child care centers	35	100%	100%
16 directors complete Leadership Academy	16	100%	100%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
465 consultation/coaching visits	480	100%	103%
22 groups meetings	24	100%	109%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
14 participants who complete Leadership Academy will improve program administration practices	16 of 16	85%	100%
10 centers that submit an NAEYC application will become NAEYC accredited	10 of 12	82%	83%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination and avoidance of duplicated TA efforts	CCSA was an active member of Wake TAC. Staff members attended regularly scheduled meetings and actively contributed to discussions.

Activity:	Community Outreach and Education		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart		FY 2016-17:	\$186,148	
Goal Area:	4	Years funded:	4	FY 2015-16:	\$177,952
Description: This activity will target parents of children ages birth through five, childcare providers, the business community, civic leaders, faith communities, health agencies, and the general public. Services will include (a) provision of informational materials, which may include promotion of kindergarten readiness, childhood obesity prevention, car seat safety and literacy; (b) newsletters distributed quarterly; (c) annual reports and other materials highlighting community services and their impact; and (d) engagement with community partners and DSPs to offer community awareness events (e.g. provider fairs). Outreach and education will be communicated through printed materials, WCSS website as well as social media. Materials will be produced in English and Spanish, as appropriate, and will be offered throughout the fiscal year. Service delivery will occur both in-office and throughout the community. COE will coordinate with PCE to assure systems change initiatives include key components of high performing programs, services and interventions and open and frequent communication with community stakeholders.”					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$186,148	\$184,834	>95%	99.3%
Match: \$35,368	\$6,516	19% of allocation	3.5%
Staff levels: 2 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
150 community stakeholders who receive outreach or engagement contacts	187	100%	125%
15 community stakeholders participating in ongoing system planning and coordination (subset of above)	10	100%	67%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
32 group outreach and engagement contacts	44	100%	138%
100 individual outreach and engagement contacts	687	100%	687%
10 documents developed and distributed	8	100%	80%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
71 community stakeholders will express initial or continuing interest in information or involvement in ECE or WCSS	110 of 177	40%	62%
35 community stakeholders will demonstrate initial or continuing involvement/support at any level	32 of 177	20%	18%
6 Collaborative partners who participate in at least two early childhood resource zone community events	7 of 10	60%	70%
Outreach collaboration participants attending at least two meetings will increase average collaborative practices rating from last year's rating of 3.79.		>3.79	3.91

Activity:	Child Care Health Consultant Program		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County Human Services		FY 2016-17:	\$400,219	
Goal Area:	2	Years funded:	18	FY 2015-16:	\$405,432
Description: Child Care Health Consultants provide on-site health, safety, and nutrition consultation in child care facilities. Consultants develop and implement health, safety, and nutrition improvement plans and develop health care plans for children with special health needs. One to three star centers and homes with most significant needs that serve children on subsidy are prioritized. Intensive specialized training and technical is provided to facilities interested in improving scores on the personal care routines of the Environmental Rating Scale, nutrition and physical activity (NAP SACC program) and breastfeeding policies and practices.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$400,219*	\$399,476	>95%	99.8%
Match: \$76,042	\$76,863	19% of allocation	19.2%
Staff levels: 5 FTE	Fully staffed under 6 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
160 facilities will be served	204	100%	128%
110 facilities will receive short term on site consultation or training	120	100%	109%
60 facilities will receive intensive on site consultation or training	55	100%	92%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1100 on site consultations or training visits	943	100%	86%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
15 centers that complete intensive on site consultation will improve their health or safety practices	17 of 18	85%	94%
15 teachers will demonstrate increased knowledge regarding individual child's health care need and appropriate protocol for care	20 of 20	75%	100%
3 centers that complete Quality Improvement services will demonstrate high quality health and safety practices	2 of 5	60%	40%
9 centers that complete Quality Improvement services in prior years who are relicensed in current year will increase their program quality	8 of 11	75%	73%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination and avoidance of duplicated TA efforts and improved matching of services	Currently applying for a John Rex Endowment grant to help with collaboration and assist with system level outcomes and effective meeting/practices.

Activity:	Child Care Financial Assistance for Families [Subsidy]		Funding History	
Agency:	Wake County Human Services		FY 2016-17:	\$4,894,672
Goal Area:	2	Years funded:	15 (total of 19 through another agency)	FY 2015-16: \$4,894,672
Description: The Child Care Subsidy Program provides financial assistance for child care to parents earning less than 75 percent of the state median income, TANF eligible families and families who are homeless. Case managers and program coordinators provide information in person and by phone about quality child care, star licensing, child development, community resources and referrals prior to subsidy certification / recertification and upon request. Quality supplement payments are provided to child care facilities meeting eligibility criteria as defined in the MOU.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$4,894,672*	\$4,894,672	>95%	100%
Match: \$929,988	\$567,279	19% of allocation	11.6%
Staff levels: 6 FTE	Fully staffed for 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1000 children will receive child care subsidy in 4 or 5 star facilities (children with and without special needs)	960	100%	96%
60 children served from referral through a homeless shelter	23	100%	38%

What services were provided?

Not Applicable

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
The average star rating for all child placements for children receiving Child Care Subsidy with WCS funding will maintain or increase from 4.65	4.77		
74 children referred from homeless shelters will be issued a subsidy voucher within one month of referral	5 of 92	80%	5%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Wake County Child Care Subsidy program will explore system level need through the combined NC Pre-K/ Subsidy Policy Committee meetings and will report the needs in Q2 & Q4.	WCHS CCS Program continues to collaborate with NC Pre-K. In April 2017, programs met together to collaborate on resource guides.

Activity:	Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)		Funding History	
Agency:	Family Resource Center of the South Atlantic		FY 2016-17:	\$256,954
Goal Area:	3	Years funded:	3	FY 2015-16: \$259,400
Description: This activity provides home visits and group meetings using the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) model. The program serves parents of children ages 3-5 (not in Kindergarten) who have limited access to transportation, limited formal education, and/or limited English proficiency. Visits will be provided to individual families weekly for 30 weeks according to the model, with role play as the method of instruction.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$256,954*	\$256,954	>95%	100%
Match: \$48,631	\$51,394	19% of allocation	20%
Staff levels: 4.2 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
65 children	67	100%	103%
52 children will complete the program	41	100%	79%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1600 individual visits or face to face meetings with families/children	1479	100%	92%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
29 family caregivers participating in at least 28 home visits will demonstrate positive growth in parenting quality	39 of 39	75%	100%
27 children whose family caregivers participated in at least 28 home visits will demonstrate improved developmental readiness for school	30 of 39	70%	77%
10 program graduates from prior year will be involved in their child's learning	14 of 20	50%	70%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Coordination of services, avoidance of duplicated efforts, and access to services will be improved	This outcome was achieved through continued collaboration with Wake Connections coordinated data system.

Activity:	Literacy Invites and Nurtures Kids' Success (LINKS)		Funding History	
Agency:	Motheread Inc.		FY 2016-17:	\$130,154
Goal Area:	2	Years funded: 9	FY 2015-16:	\$130,154
Description: In the L.I.N.K.S. initiative, child care teachers learn literacy skills and effective teaching strategies to use in their classrooms as well as how to involve parents in literacy activities at home. Improving classroom literacy practice enhances child care quality and develops children's emergent literacy skills.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$130,154*	\$130,154	>95%	100%
Match: \$24,729	\$23,076	19% of allocation	17.8%
Staff levels: 1.75 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
15 childcare centers	16	100%	107%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
23 Story Exploring Trainings (groups trainings) will be conducted	19	100%	83%
700 individual classroom mentoring visits will be conducted	643	100%	92%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
13 early childhood educators will show an improvement in their read-aloud strategies and literacy development activities	15 of 15	90%	100%
10 early childhood educators will show an improvement in the classroom emergent literacy environment	12 of 12	85%	100%
14 centers will continue to have improved emergent literacy environments six months after completing the program	6 of 15	93%	40%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination and avoidance of duplicated TA efforts	The TAC met regularly to discuss and plan activities and processes that would improve efficiency and quality within the childcare community. Additionally, all centers involved in the LINKS process were submitted to TAC to make sure there were no issues with the centers being a part of LINKS.

Activity:	North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart		FY 2016-17:	\$3,022,578	
Goal Area:	3	Years funded:	16	FY 2015-16:	\$3,028,361
Description: The North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program is an early learning opportunity for eligible four- and five-year-olds. This program will provide a comprehensive approach to preparing children for school success by addressing children’s cognitive, social, emotional, language and physical needs in structured, quality classroom environments. This program will also provide quality improvement and assurance activities for NC Pre-K classrooms and other support for the NC Pre-K program as appropriate.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$3,022,578*	\$3,022,467	>95%	99.996%
Match: \$574,290	\$861,844	19% of allocation	28.5%
Staff levels: 4.4 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1120 children will be served	1,298	100%	116%
43 participating child care facilities	43	100%	100%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
75 NC Pre-K classrooms will be monitored	78	100%	104%
80 onsite quality assurance contacts will be provided to NC Pre-K sites	87	100%	109%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
687 children will meet or exceed Social-Emotional proficiency expectations	790 of 859	80%	92%
678 children will meet or exceed literacy proficiency expectations	792 of 848	80%	93%
56 classrooms that receive a CLASS evaluation will demonstrate positive teacher/child interaction as measured by the CLASS instructional support domain	57 of 74	75%	77%
59 parents of children in Kindergarten completing the NC Pre-K Parent Survey will indicate that their children were prepared and on track for Kindergarten upon entry	70 of 74	80%	95%

What was the system’s level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination and avoidance of duplicated efforts, improved family access to services and increased efficiency in utilization of resources	Members of the App Collaborative and other community members are convinced that updated technology exists - but access to larger systems are difficult to navigate. Requests from DCDEE for opportunity to meet have recently been accepted and we are hopeful about improvements to larger systems.

Activity:	Nurse-Family Partnership		Funding History	
Agency:	Wake County Human Services		FY 2016-17:	\$75,000
Goal Area:	1 and 3	Years funded: 9	FY 2015-16:	\$75,000
Description: The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based, nurse home visiting program that improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children. Elements of the program include: Weekly or bi-weekly home visits provided by highly trained registered nurses; voluntary enrollment as early in the mother's pregnancy as possible and continuing through the first two years of the child's life; structured home visits that focus on the mother's personal health, quality of care-giving and life-course development; involvement of the mother's support system including family members and friends; and assistance in assessing the need for other health and human services. Nurse-Family Partnership sites follow model fidelity requirements of the NFP National Service.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$75,000*	\$75,000	>95%	100%
Match: \$14,250	\$19,656	19% of allocation	26%
Staff levels: 1 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year; WCSS does not fund the entire NFP program but information below is for the entire program.

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
100 families	115	100%	115%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1500 home visits	1648	100%	110%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
326 babies born since program inception will have a normal birthweight	317 of 366	89%	87%
279 women who have given birth since program inception will initiate breastfeeding	328 of 372	75%	88%
104 children served since program inception will have up to date immunizations	109 of 116	90%	94%
97 women since program inception who complete the 18 month post-partum period will not have a subsequent pregnancy within that period	82 of 129	75%	64%
80% of potential pregnancy completers will complete the pregnancy phase*		80%	89%
65% of potential infancy completers will complete the infancy phase*		65%	64%
60% of potential toddler completers will complete the toddler phase*		60%	77%
11 graduates will report being in school or employed following completion of the program	12 of 14	80%	86%

*For these projections, the target from the NFP model is a percentage, so that is reflected here.

What was the system-level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improve coordination of Home Based Services	Participates on Wake Connections Advisory Council.

Activity:	The Nurturing Program for Spanish Speaking Families (Crianza Con Cariño)		Funding History		
Agency:	SAFEchild		FY 2016-17:	\$80,123	
Goal Area:	1	Years funded:	18	FY 2015-16:	\$81,591
Description: The Nurturing Program serves Spanish speaking families in Wake County with children birth to five-years-old who need secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect. This 12 week family education program blends child-rearing information with social supports to strengthen Spanish-speaking families. Culturally sensitive, bilingual volunteers facilitate parent and children's groups using a nationally recognized curriculum. Parents and their children attend together but meet in separate groups.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$80,123*	\$79,073	>95%	98.7%
Match: \$15,223	\$15,032	19% of allocation	18.8%
Staff levels: 1 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
50 parents	62	100%	124%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
40 group contacts or trainings with parents	40	100%	100%
120 individual sessions with parents	126	100%	105%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
50 family caregivers will experience an increase in nurturing parenting attitudes	52 of 56	80%	93%
50 family caregivers will demonstrate increased empathy	56 of 56	90%	100%
6 families will demonstrate nurturing parenting attitudes regarding positive, non-physical discipline and empathy for their children's needs 6 months after program completion	8 of 8	85%	100%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination, avoidance of duplication, and improved matching of services	The Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) has met 24 times since July 1, 2016. Each MDT case review meeting is 4 hours. A total of 330 children have been discussed at these meetings. 89 of these children are birth to 5 years old. 73 of the children are Hispanic.

Activity:	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program		Funding History	
Agency:	Project Enlightenment - Wake County Public School System		FY 2016-17:	\$497,169
Goal Area:	1	Years funded: 21	FY 2015-16:	\$460,440
Description: Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an international early childhood parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten, usually age five. The program is designed to enhance child development and school achievement through parent education. Interactions include: personal visits, group meetings, annual developmental screenings and functional assessments and referrals to community resources to families on an as needed basis.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$497,169*	\$493,270	>95%	99%
Match: \$94,462	\$92,753	19% of allocation	18.7%
Staff levels: 7.75 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
220 families will enroll in PAT	177	100%	80%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
2690 Individual Visits with families/children	2,050	100%	76%
12 group meetings will be held	12	100%	100%
201 developmental screenings using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire	151	100%	75%
Model Fidelity Expectations	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
Families with 0-1 High Needs Factors received at least 75% of monthly visit requirement (1 visit per month)		90%	99%
Families with 2 or more High Needs Factors received at least 75% of monthly visit requirement (2 visits per month)		75%	80%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
26 family caregivers will demonstrate improved parenting quality in the first year	33 of 37	70%	89%
33 family caregivers participating over a year will demonstrate improved parenting quality	30 of 44	75%	68%
159 of the families who receive referrals will receive at least one needed service as a result of program activities	160 of 177	90%	90%
3 families who had been out of the program for at least 6 months will identify one activity they are doing in 4 of 6 targeted areas	5 of 5	75%	100%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improve coordination and avoidance of duplicated efforts, improve access to services (e.g. reduced waiting time, ease of family access), and improve matching services	The work has been accomplished through the Wake Connections advisory committee and will be ongoing. A separate subgroup will continue to work on outreach, engagement and retention of families.

Activity:	Program Coordination and Evaluation		Funding History	
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart		FY 2016-17:	\$290,124
Goal Area:	4	Years funded: 21	FY 2015-16:	\$231,288
Description: In an effort to build the capacity of communities and families to prepare children for success in school and in life, Program Coordination and Evaluation experts work with community stakeholders to develop activities to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes. Staff provides support, expertise and oversees other roles such as preparing community needs assessments, managing the Request for Proposal processes and participating in the development of staff funding recommendations. Staff also work with partners to develop annual evaluation plans and track implementation and outcomes for all funded activities; conduct partner site visits to assess progress toward program goals; participate in strategic planning; gather and analyze relevant data; and report findings to the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and others as required and/or requested.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$290,124*	\$290,124	>95%	100%
Match: \$55,124	\$193,967	19% of allocation	67%
Staff levels: 3 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
30 community stakeholders receiving community engagement contacts to promote collaboration or system change	32	100%	107%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
40 community engagement contacts	41	100%	103%
100 TA and monitoring contacts	136	100%	136%
20 group outreach and engagement contacts with community stakeholders	19	100%	95%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
19 stakeholders receiving community engagement contact will participate in joint planning, information sharing, or implementation of specific strategies to improve efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery system	24 of 32	60%	75%
25 e-Cimpact users (applicants and reviewers) will indicate a positive experience using the system for application or review	23 of 31	80%	74%
7 PPC committee members attending at least two meetings will identify data sharing needs and/or opportunities.	6 of 9	75%	67%

Activity:	Quality Enhancement		Funding History	
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart Inc.		FY 2016-17:	\$279,551
Goal Area:	2	Years funded: 18	FY 2015-16:	\$259,079
Description: The Quality Enhancement (QE) Initiative provides on-site consultation to one to three star licensed centers in Wake County. Services offered include on-site technical assistance, training, consultation, plan development, and professional development for child care providers.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$279,551	\$279,462	>95%	99.97%
Match: \$53,115	\$181,093	19% of allocation	64.8%
Staff levels: 1.5 FTE	Fully staffed 11- 12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
17 child care centers	19	100%	112%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
420 onsite consultation/coaching visits	561	100%	134%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
6 Quality Improvement centers will improve classroom environment based on pre/post Environmental Rating Scale assessment	5 of 8	80%	63%
2 Quality Improvement centers that are relicensed will increase star level and program standard points	2 of 3	70%	67%
20 centers completing services in prior years that are relicensed in the current year will maintain or improve their license program quality	37 of 40	50%	93%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improved coordination and avoidance of duplicated TA efforts and improved matching of consultation and TA services	Continued participation on Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) and use of common application form.

Activity:	Quality Supplement		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart		FY 2016-17:	\$1,332,825	
Goal Area:	2	Years funded:	3	FY 2015-16:	\$1,328,030
Description: This activity will provide monthly quality supplement payments to eligible 4 and 5 star centers and family child care homes with at least 6 program standard points that serve children on subsidy in order to support and maintain high quality child care. Eligibility and payment amounts will be based on criteria developed between WCSS and subcontractor. Monitoring of quality practices will occur monthly through review of licensing data and submission of required documentation.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$1,332,825*	\$1,331,567	>95%	99.9%
Match: \$253,237	\$0	19% of allocation	0%
Staff levels: 1.9 FTE	Fully staffed 7 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
150 centers/homes will submit application for Quality Supplement payment	122	100%	81%
120 Centers/homes will receive Quality Supplement payments	113	100%	94%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
10 Consultation/mentoring visits	12	100%	120%
20 centers/homes will receive intensive monitoring	20	100%	100%
1100 Quality Supplement payments will be made	1168	100%	106%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
107 centers/homes receiving Quality Supplements will submit appropriate documentation for monitoring (budget, co-pay documentation, and program enrollment)	113 of 113	95%	100%
16 centers/homes receiving intensive monitoring will meet monitoring standards	19 of 20	80%	95%
14 facilities needing quality support will enroll in a quality support program	15 of 16	90%	94%
21 facilities that are relicensed will increase in stars or PS points or maintain 5 stars and 7 PS points or NAEYC accreditation	16 of 42	50%	38%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Increase efficiency and utilization of resources to support child care quality	We shared information about upcoming Quality Supplements applications and changes for the new fiscal year with TA Collaborative.

Activity:	Reach Out and Read		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County SmartStart		FY 2016-17:	\$6,210	
Goal Area:	1	Years funded:	5	FY 2015-16:	\$6,210
Description: Reach Out and Read partners with pediatric practices that serve high percentages of low-income children to provide pre-literacy opportunities for children and their families. The medical care providers will discuss the importance of reading, model reading a book aloud to the child and engaging the child in the activity, and encourage parent-child interactions as part of pre-literacy and language development. During each of the routine visits, family members will receive a new, culturally- and developmentally appropriate book to take home and read to their child. The participating practices will develop a literacy-rich waiting room area that reinforces the practice's prescription to read to children.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
NCPC Grant Allocation: \$6,210*	\$5,502	>95%	88.6%
Match: \$1,180	\$19,915	19% of allocation	321%
Staff levels: .12 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
2 medical practice staff supported through technical assistance	2	100%	100%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
2 literacy rich environments will be supported	2	100%	100%
6 technical assistance contacts will be provided to medical staff	6	100%	100%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
15% more returning ROR parents will report reading to their children every day than new ROR parents		15%	-2%
15% more returning ROR parents will report using at least one recommended reading strategy with their children compared to new ROR parents		15%	14%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Activity staff will coordinate with other agencies serving the provider to ensure maximum reach with minimal inconvenience to the daily processes of the practices.	All Kids' First providers actively participate in ABCD activity, completing screenings of eligible children.

Activity:	School Readiness Services for Hispanic Children		Funding History	
Agency:	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, Inc.		FY 2016-17:	\$131,354
Goal Area:	1	Years funded: 13	FY 2015-16:	\$128,290
Description: The School Readiness Services for Hispanic Children program serves Hispanic families with children, birth to five, in Wake County. It is a multifaceted program that includes: Dialogic Reading to build language and literacy in early childhood, developmental screenings and assistance accessing early intervention services, assessment of family resources for basic needs and referrals to needed services and case management.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$131,354*	\$131,354	>95%	100%
Match: \$24,957	\$46,529	19% of allocation	35.4%
Staff levels: 1.91 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
290 families will be served	274	100%	94%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
160 group contacts or trainings with families	161	100%	101%
200 families who received a needs assessment	180	100%	90%
350 case management contacts made to/on behalf of SmartStart families	310	100%	89%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
59 parents will improve their shared book reading style	56 of 74	80%	76%
90 children will receive at least one needed service related to health or development	83 of 180	50%	46%
14 family caregivers will demonstrate increased knowledge of literacy skills for young children 6 months after completing Language is the Key	24 of 24	60%	100%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improve access to services and improve matching of services	Participates on the Advisory Council for Wake Connections.

Activity:	Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children: SecurePath		Funding History	
Agency:	Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood		FY 2016-17:	\$321,056
Goal Area:	3	Years funded: 13	FY 2015-16:	\$257,922
Description: The Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children program, also known as SecurePath, is a comprehensive mental health service for young children in Wake County provided at the child's home or preschool. SecurePath staff offers mental health assessments, interventions, and therapy for children ages birth to five and their parents who need help with their child's social, emotional, or developmental challenges. Services are provided in English and Spanish. Services are provide free-of-charge to children age five and younger, who have not yet started kindergarten. SecurePath focuses its resources on children and families who do not have insurance coverage or are receiving Medicaid.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$321,056*	\$321,056	>95%	100%
Match: \$61,001	\$45,605	19% of allocation	14.2%
Staff levels: 4 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
91 children	98	100%	108%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
1703 individual visits or face to face meetings with families/children (hour or longer)	1656	100%	97%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
21 children who receive at least 4 months of service will demonstrate improved social-emotional readiness for school	24 of 30	70%	80%
17 children who receive at least 12 months of service will demonstrate improved social-emotional readiness for school	20 of 28	60%	65%
11 parents will report that they are continuing to use skills learned through SecurePath 6 months after they exited the program	5 of 19	60%	26%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Improve coordination of services and access to services, avoid duplicated efforts	SecurePath continues to participate in the Wake Connections Advisory Committee and consult on the roll out of the new referral system. WCAC also provides SecurePath with awareness of local resources for families.

Activity:	Supporting School Readiness		Funding History	
Agency:	Project Enlightenment - Wake County Public School System		FY 2016-17:	\$112,022
Goal Area:	3	Years funded:	18	FY 2015-16: \$111,258
Description: The program will provide facilitated sessions to promote children's oral language, social skills, problem-solving, and self-regulation. There will be 4 concurrent classes with 28 meetings each. Two groups are held at each meeting: one for children to experience classroom learning and support their school readiness, and one for caregivers that teaches parenting skills and reinforces the new learning at home. Services will be provided by Supporting School Readiness Specialists to children without preschool experience who will be age eligible to enter Kindergarten the following school year and their families.				

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$112,022*	\$107,400	>95%	95.9%
Match: \$21,284	\$32,713	19% of allocation	29.2%
Staff levels: 1.48 FTE	Fully staffed 10 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
72 children	47	100%	65%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
112 group sessions will be provided	112	100%	100%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Actual of Potential	Target %	Actual %
40 children participating in the Getting Ready for Kindergarten program will meet lesson objectives for 90% of sessions attended	44 of 47	90%	94%
23 children attending at least 21 sessions will show at least a moderate improvement in social-emotional development	25 of 25	80%	100%
11 children attending at least 15 sessions in prior year maintained or increased their social-emotional readiness since program completion	15 of 19	60%	79%

What was the system's level involvement?

Expected	Progress on strategies and system outcome
Coordination and avoidance of duplicated efforts will be improved	We have created a document in English and Spanish that lists many of the programs available for preschool children. The Community Resource List For Preschool Children outlines programs in our county that serve 4 year old children. In addition, the SSR program is now part of the Wake Connections Collaborative.

Activity:	Wake Up and Read		Funding History		
Agency:	Wake County Public School System		FY 2016-17:	\$30,423	
Goal Area:	4	Years funded:	3	FY 2015-16:	\$25,957
Description: This activity will coordinate and align efforts across early childhood and early literacy focused agencies to improve access and efficient use of literacy opportunities for young children in Wake County. The target population will be early childhood and early literacy focused agencies and/or child care facilities in Wake County serving children birth to age five.					

What resources were available?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
SmartStart Allocation: \$30,423*	\$29,865	>95%	98%
Match: \$5,780	\$17,920	19% of allocation	59%
Staff levels: 0.5 FTE	Fully staffed 11-12 months		

*Maximum resources available at end of year

Who was served?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
9 core partner agencies/organizations with an early childhood component that participate in Wake Up and Read collaborative	9	100%	100%

What services were provided?

Expected	Actual	Target %	Actual %
24 early childhood partner individual or group recruitment and/engagement contacts	45	100%	188%
5 programs enrolling families in Ready 4K	8	100%	160%

What impact was achieved?

Expected	Pre	Post	Result
Core participants will report improved collaborative practices	4.15	4.45	.3
Direct service core partner agencies will share measurement data for reading frequency of participants served			Met