

Vision: Wake County will be a community of strong, nurturing families which respects and values its young children and ensures that each child is happy, healthy, safe, and prepared for success in school and in life.

Mission: Wake County Smart Start works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life.

Core Values:

Respect

- We honor the unique experiences and needs of each young child and family.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity

- We value diversity; promote inclusive practice; and advance racial, ethnic, and economic equity

Advocacy

- We provide a strong, united voice for those most vulnerable—our children.

Responsiveness

- We respond to the individual needs of children and families with regard for our larger community as a whole.

Community Collaboration

- We support community collaboration through authentic relationships characterized by honesty, integrity, and compassion.

Innovation

- We value flexibility, actively seek new approaches in practice, and regard challenges as opportunities for growth.

Accountability

- We value our role as public stewards through the use of best business practices, strong internal controls, and accurate documentation of our efforts.

Goal 1: Children are in safe, supportive home environments

WCSS Roles: Funder, Evaluator, Capacity Builder, Facilitator

Objectives <i>(with a focus on advancing racial & ethnic equity)</i>	Strategies	Community-Level Indicators <i>(disaggregated by race & ethnicity)</i>
<p>IMPROVE FAMILIES' PARENTING PRACTICES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase families' knowledge of parenting • Improve families' parenting practices • Increase <u>families'</u> access to and use of services that are based in culturally appropriate practices • <i>Program Level Systems Change:</i> Increase cross-program collaboration to 1) strengthen family leadership opportunities and 2) support efficient and effective services 	<p><i>Promoting funded partners':</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence-based programs and practices with demonstrated impact on parenting knowledge and practices • Implementation of programs and practices that focus on families with greatest need • Implementation of shared outreach, recruitment, and/or enrollment strategies throughout the continuum of services • Incorporation of family-centered engagement in program planning, design, implementation, and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of parents/ guardians who report reading to their children daily • Rate of investigated reports of child abuse/ neglect per 1,000 children ages 0-5

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

WCSS Roles: Funder, Evaluator, Capacity Builder, Facilitator

Objectives <i>(with a focus on advancing racial & ethnic equity)</i>	Strategies	Community Indicators <i>(disaggregated by race & ethnicity)</i>
<p>INCREASE SUSTAINABLE, HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of child care facilities that develop and sustain high quality care over time • Increase <u>children's</u> access to and use of services that are based in culturally appropriate practices • <u>Program Level Systems Change:</u> Increase cross-program collaboration to 1) strengthen family leadership opportunities and 2) support efficient and effective services 	<p><i>Promoting funded partners':</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence-based programs and practices with demonstrated impact on child care access and quality • Implementation of an integrated continuum of services that promotes <u>sustainable</u> high-quality care • Implementation of programs and practices that focus on families with greatest need • Implementation of shared outreach, recruitment, and/or enrollment strategies throughout the continuum of services • Incorporation of family-centered engagement in program planning, design, implementation, and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average star rating for children in 1-5 star care and percent of children in 4 and 5 star care • Average star rating for children receiving subsidy in 1-5 star care and percent of children receiving subsidy in 4 and 5 star care • Percent of children enrolled in 1-5 star center that have at least 75% of teachers with college degrees -- 7 education points • Percent of children enrolled in 1-5 star center that have directors with college degrees -- 7 administrator education points

Goal 3: Children are healthy and developmentally ready for school

WCSS Roles: Funder, Evaluator, Capacity Builder, Facilitator

<p>Objectives <i>(with a focus on advancing racial & ethnic equity)</i></p>	<p>Strategies</p>	<p>Community Indicators <i>(disaggregated by race & ethnicity)</i></p>
<p>IMPROVE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL READINESS FOR SCHOOL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase children's use of resources that support children's health and development • Improve children's health or development • Increase children's access to and use of services that are based in culturally appropriate practices • <i>Program Level Systems Change:</i> Increase cross-program collaboration to 1) strengthen family leadership opportunities and 2) support efficient and effective services 	<p><i>Promoting funded partners':</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of evidence-based programs and practices with demonstrated impact on child health, development, and use of resources • Implementation of programs and practices that focus on families with greatest need • Implementation of shared outreach, recruitment, and/or enrollment strategies throughout the continuum of care • Incorporation of family-centered engagement in program planning, design, implementation, and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of children developmentally on track for Kindergarten as measured by Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) (planned, but not current indicator) • Percent of children 0-5 who receive early intervention or special education services • Percent of children enrolled in Medicaid who receive a well-child exam • Percent of low income children age 2-4 who are at a healthy weight

Goal 4: Children and Families are supported by a strong, diverse, connected and integrated early childhood system that promotes results

WCSS Roles:

- **Agency Systems:** Funder, Engager, Convener, Influencer
- **County Systems:** Educator, Influencer, Pollinator, Convener, Capacity Builder, Participant, Contributor

<p>Objectives (with a focus on advancing racial & ethnic equity)</p>	<p>Strategies</p>	<p>Community Indicators (disaggregated by race & ethnicity)</p>
<p><u>Agency Level Systems Change:</u></p> <p>IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AGENCY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN B-5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger connections, common vision and shared priorities among <u>agencies</u> serving children B-5 • Improved efficiency and effectiveness of services among <u>agencies</u> serving children B-5 • Stronger connections with families and communities 	<p>Engaging family and other community stakeholders, with an aim of addressing racial and ethnic disparities, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development/implementation of shared outcomes and data sharing agreements • Implementation of comprehensive needs and resource mapping • Development/implementation of shared application/enrollment processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of children reading at grade level in 3rd grade (not an EC Profile indicator)
<p><u>County Level Systems Change:</u></p> <p>IMPROVE COUNTY WIDE REACH AND IMPACT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN B-8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger connections and shared vision among <u>county level policy makers and funders</u> for children B-8 • Implementation of a comprehensive, county-wide action plan to address identified priorities 	<p>Engaging family and other community stakeholders, with an aim of addressing racial and ethnic disparities, through shared leadership around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development/implementation of a funders collaborative to align goals and resources • Development of county level impact framework • Promotion of policy development that supports countywide impact priorities • Development of shared data system • Jointly building the commitment, skills, and resources of key stakeholders to achieve shared goals for young children 	