

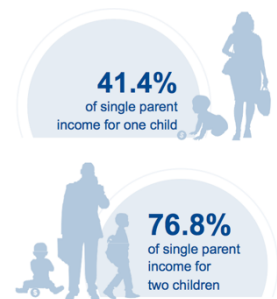
***The NC Early Education Coalition urges the NC General Assembly to use the expanded CCDBG funding to serve 10,000 children on the child care subsidy waiting list and prioritize services for infants and toddlers.***

**Background**

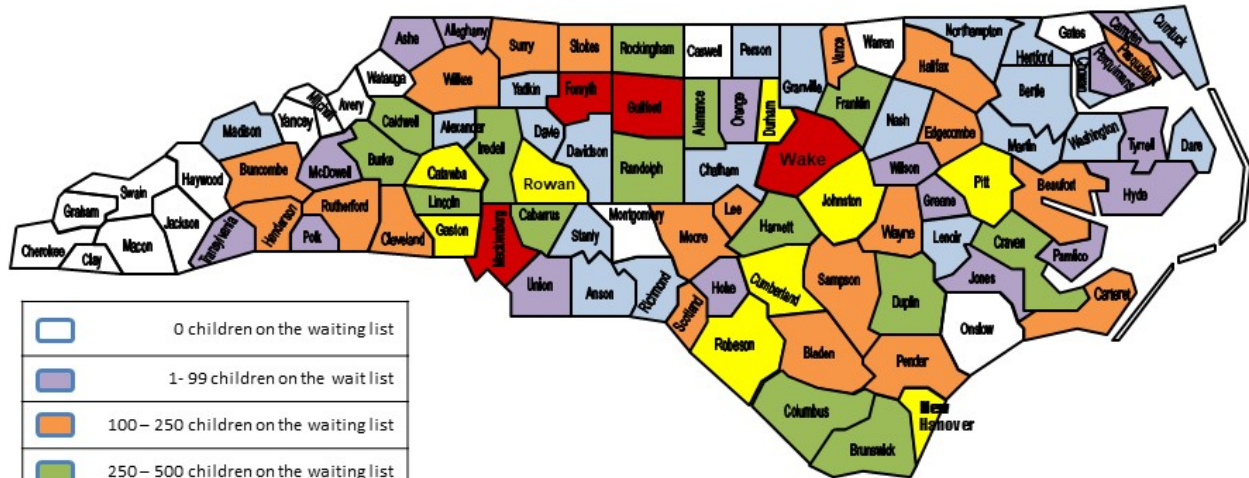
On February 9, 2018, Congress passed and the President signed a two-year budget deal, under which an additional \$5.8 billion in discretionary funding will be provided over two years for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This deal will increase discretionary funding for CCDBG by \$2.4 billion in FY 2018. This will fully fund the 2014 child care reauthorization which was intended to improve the health, safety, and quality of child care and will also allow states to expand access to child care assistance for the first time many years. North Carolina is expected to receive \$79.9 million in FY 2018 in increased funding which could serve up to 10,000 more eligible children (CLASP, March 2018)

**North Carolina's Children and Families Need Child Care Assistance Now. Here's why:**

- **Quality early care and education is crucial for the well-being of parents, children, and North Carolina.** It makes it possible for parents to work and support their families. It gives children a safe, nurturing environment to learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life. And, by strengthening the current and future workforce, it bolsters our state's economy.
- **Yet many families, particularly low-income families, struggle with the high cost of child care, which affects their ability to work and maintain employment.** These costs can strain families' budgets, force parents to use cheaper, lower-quality care even if they would prefer other options for their children, and prevent parents from working because they cannot afford care.
- **Quality early care and education is not affordable for too many families.** On average child care is significantly more expensive than college tuition at a public university. According to a recent study by Child Care Aware, "In North Carolina, a year of center-based infant care costs \$9,254 and is over 38% more expensive than a year of public college tuition in the state." The average annual cost of infant child care costs nearly a year of home mortgage.
- **There are 50,000 eligible children on the North Carolina waiting list for early care and education as of February 2018. Over 80 counties have eligible children and families waiting for child care assistance. See map below.** Waiting for child care assistance has a two-generation negative impact: 1) Parents may lose their opportunities for employment, keeping their family in poverty. 2) Young children miss out on quality early care and education opportunities which will bolster their chances for healthy development, language development, early learning, school readiness and later success in life.
- **Infants and toddlers wait longer for child care subsidy assistance.** While similar numbers of infants and toddlers receive state child care subsidy money as a whole, more of them are waiting for subsidy. Well over half (63%) of children birth to five waiting for a child care subsidy are infants or toddlers (Child Care Services Association, 2016). Children's brains grow faster at ages 0-3 than at any other time in life. Without child care assistance, their families may not be able to afford quality care and early learning experiences for their children. Many of these children will start kindergarten behind their peers and may never catch up. Preschool programs may be too late to close the gap for too many of our youngest children.



## North Carolina Child Care Subsidy Waiting List, February 2018



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | 0 children on the waiting list           |
|  | 1- 99 children on the wait list          |
|  | 100 – 250 children on the waiting list   |
|  | 250 – 500 children on the waiting list   |
|  | 500 – 1000 children on the waiting list  |
|  | 1000 – 3000 children on the waiting list |
|  | 3000 – 5000 children on the waiting list |

Source: Child Care Subsidy Waiting List, Feb. 2018, NCDCCDEE  
 Map prepared by: NC Early Education Coalition, May 2018.

| NORTH CAROLINA CHILD CARE SUBSIDY WAITING LIST FEBRUARY 2018: TOTAL 50, 742 |               |            |               |             |               |              |               |
|---|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| County  | # of Children | County     | # of Children | County      | # of Children | County       | # of Children |
| Alamance  | 962           | Cumberland | 2,174         | Johnston    | 1,375         | Randolph     | 516           |
| Alexander   | 139           | Currituck  | 158           | Jones       | 31            | Richmond     | 123           |
| Alleghany   | 33            | Dare       | 122           | Lee         | 392           | Robeson      | 1,451         |
| Anson   | 213           | Davidson   | 131           | Lenoir      | 200           | Rockingham   | 630           |
| Ashe  | 60            | Davie      | 223           | Lincoln     | 521           | Rowan        | 1,241         |
| Avery   | 0             | Duplin     | 606           | Macon       | 0             | Rutherford   | 342           |
| Beaufort  | 252           | Durham     | 1,943         | Madison     | 150           | Sampson      | 455           |
| Bertie  | 166           | Edgecombe  | 266           | Martin      | 163           | Scotland     | 408           |
| Bladen  | 319           | Forsyth    | 3,291         | McDowell    | 11            | Stanly       | 203           |
| Brunswick   | 890           | Franklin   | 521           | Mecklenburg | 4,599         | Stokes       | 292           |
| Buncombe  | 468           | Gaston     | 1,868         | Mitchell    | 0             | Surry        | 328           |
| Burke   | 683           | Gates      | 0             | Montgomery  | 0             | Swain        | 0             |
| Cabarrus  | 617           | Graham     | 0             | Moore       | 262           | Transylvania | 83            |
| Caldwell  | 714           | Granville  | 218           | Nash        | 213           | Tyrrell      | 21            |
| Camden  | 46            | Greene     | 58            | New Hanover | 1,167         | Union        | 17            |
| Carteret  | 268           | Guilford   | 4,113         | Northampton | 175           | Vance        | 354           |
| Caswell   | 0             | Halifax    | 398           | Onslow      | 0             | Wake         | 3,808         |
| Catawba   | 1,252         | Harnett    | 965           | Orange      | 5             | Warren       | 0             |
| Chatham   | 119           | Haywood    | 0             | Pamlico     | 65            | Washington   | 104           |
| Cherokee  | 0             | Henderson  | 345           | Pasquotank  | 383           | Watauga      | 0             |
| Chowan  | 167           | Hertford   | 235           | Pender      | 335           | Wayne        | 359           |
| Clay  | 0             | Hoke       | 59            | Perquimans  | 82            | Wilkes       | 375           |
| Cleveland   | 335           | Hyde       | 7             | Person      | 201           | Wilson       | 27            |
| Columbus  | 668           | Iredell    | 554           | Pitt        | 1,829         | Yadkin       | 178           |
| Craven  | 579           | Jackson    | 0             | Polk        | 63            | Yancey       | 0             |