

IREDELL COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

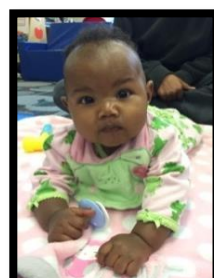


Annual Report **2015-2016**

In Fiscal Year 2015-16, the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children championed quality services for young children, ages birth to five years. As the local Smart Start initiative, we are proud of the impact we're having and our role as a catalyst for increasing services for families and child care providers. Our Partnership funded twelve Smart Start activities and served as the Contract Administrator for Iredell County's NC Pre-Kindergarten program. We are also the Lead Agency for a nine-county child care resource and referral region. It's been a very busy year!

This report will provide only a brief overview of our work, and we invite you to visit our website, www.iredellsmartstart.org, Facebook page and our Statesville office to learn firsthand about our impact and services for children and families in Iredell County.

With your help, we can continue to meet the critical needs of young children in the community and achieve positive outcomes.



Performance Based Incentive System (PBIS)

All Smart Start partnerships are measured by their county's PBIS results. Our Partnership meets or exceeds PBIS criteria in administration, family support, health, and early care and education supply and quality of placements. We will keep committing resources to support the higher education of our early child care workforce. For more information about our performance, please contact Marta Koesling, 704-878-9980 or mkoesling@icpyc.org.

Improving Quality Child Care & Education

The latest research on brain development clearly shows the most critical time for learning are the first five years of life. What we do – and don't do – will have a lasting impact not only on school success, but health and lifestyle choices. In Iredell County, the child care community is committed to quality standards and has worked hard to achieve star rated licensing and higher education levels for their workforce.

In Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the Partnership funded several programs to support quality child care initiatives:

- **Professional Development** – 476 child care providers participated in the 75 Partnership professional development workshops. 206 child care providers created professional development plans and 31 earned Education Awards for completing college coursework and/or degrees. 11 (35%) of these recipients received Education Awards last year. 78 teaching staff and directors earned CEUs. This is very important because an educated workforce is the foundation of quality child care.
- **Child Care Solutions/Child Care Resource & Referral** – 429 families contacted us for child care referrals and information. Selecting child care is one of the most important decisions parents make. 97% (90/93) of families responding to our follow-up survey said they used our information to sort through and choose quality care. All licensed child care providers are listed on our NACCRRAware database.
- **Child Care Subsidies** – 337 children were able to attend high quality child care facilities because their families received Smart Start funded financial assistance through the Department of Social Services. 3,440 families inquired about the subsidy program (last year 2,901). 93% of families responding to a follow-up survey reported subsidies enabled them to start/continue employment.
- **Quality Support Specialists (QSS)** – All 14 QSS facilities increased or maintained their licensing stars. QSS staff made 387 on-site technical assistance (TA) visits and conducted 7 workshops. QSS provided intensive TA and training for our Shape NC (nutrition, physical activity, staff wellness, and breastfeeding) grant with 30 sites. 100% of the teachers requesting general TA and who completed the TA survey in FY 2015-16 reported QSS was helpful in addressing their concerns.
- **Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC)** – our CCHC made 267 on-site technical assistance (TA) visits to 92 teachers, directors and family child care home providers at 30 child care facilities. This included information, coaching and support for health, safety and wellness concerns. 64% (23/36) facilities attending Emergency Preparedness Training have completed an approved Plan that meets state licensing requirements.
- **Comprehensive Benefits** – 154 child care providers from 18 child care centers and family child care homes were reimbursed for health insurance benefits and/or participated in dental, life and short-term disability coverage. 80% (49/61) of providers responding to our follow-up survey reported they used their health benefits for annual wellness exams. 82% of insured participants continued employment at year end.
- **WAGE\$® Project** – 54 child care providers received a salary supplement based on their level of education. The average six-month supplement was \$859. The turnover rate of WAGE\$® participants in Iredell County for fiscal year 2015-2016 was 19%. 91% percent of the active WAGE\$ participants are currently being funded for having an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education, its equivalent or higher based on the WAGE\$ scale.
- **NC Pre-Kindergarten Coordination** – 280 children were enrolled in high quality NC Pre-K classrooms. 27% of the enrolled children (75/280) were from homes where English is not the primary language. 100% (15 sites) maintained their 4-5 star license and 100% of teachers met NC Pre-K education requirements. 98% of families responding to the year-end survey agreed that NC Pre-K provided a positive learning experience and that their child was better prepared for school.
- **Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC)** - 90 child care and family child care home providers joined the Early Learning Resource Center and borrowed toys and books for their classrooms and/or made learning games and materials for their students.. 36 Mitchell Community College students used the ELRC for class assignments. 38 teachers and directors from “Half Day” facilities used the ELRC.

Supporting Families and Parenting Skills

Every parent wants what's "best" for their child. Families are typically unaware of community resources and alternate strategies to help their children learn and succeed. The Partnership fills a critical gap in Iredell County with support services specifically for families:

- **Parents as Teachers** – PAT made 704 home visits to 63 parents in FY 15-16. 73% (46/63) families received multiple visits per month. 301 referrals were made to partnering agencies for services. 60 people attended at least one of the 43 PAT group meetings. 55 children received developmental screenings. PAT Educators distributed 303 books to families. 88% (28/32) of families responding to a survey showed an increase in knowledge of child development and 63% achieved at least one goal on their personal action plan.
- **Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC)** – 214 parents/grandparents utilized the ELRC borrowing toys, books and resources; created learning games and materials and participated in hands-on activity workshops. 35 English Language Learner families participated in workshops and/or used ELRC materials. 28 parents participated in our MotherRead literacy sessions. 100% of families answering a year-end survey agreed that their ELRC membership helped them with their parenting.



Additional Partnership Program

- **Community Education/Public Awareness** – One of our biggest challenges continues to be educating the community about our agency and services. We are active in the world of social networking and continue adding friends to our Facebook page. We partner with 30 organizations working with early childhood system planning and coordination and participated in 289 outreach events.
- **Program Evaluation** – all of our services are assessed quarterly and monitored by the Board of Directors. We track the number of children, families and child care providers that we serve as well as monitor our outcomes to ensure we are meeting our goals. We use this data and community input to tailor our activities, create new programs and improve our effectiveness.

Financial Data for Annual Report (unaudited) July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Revenue			Expenditures		
		<u>%age</u>			<u>%age</u>
NC Smart Start	\$ 2,072,911	51.9%	Administration	\$ 199,013	5.0%
Grants	\$ 52,611	1.3%	Child Care Subsidies	\$ 788,763	19.7%
Individual Gifts	\$ 1,969	0.0%	Early Care and Education	\$ 1,066,109	26.6%
Other Income	\$ 11,133	0.3%	Family Support	\$ 245,466	6.1%
NC Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$ 1,524,632	38.2%	NC Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$ 1,627,489	40.7%
Division of Child Development *	\$ 320,855	8.0%	Health and Safety Initiatives	\$ 75,010	1.9%
In-Kind Contribution	\$ 922	0.0%			
Volunteer Hours @ 21.65/hr	\$ 8,931	0.2%			
	<u>\$ 3,993,964</u>	<u>100%</u>		<u>\$ 4,001,850</u>	<u>100%</u>

* The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children is the Lead Agency for a nine-county Child Care Resource and Referral region comprised of Alexander, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, McDowell, Mitchell, Watauga and Yancey counties. All funds flow through ICPYC.

The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by Smart Start, private and public funds, tax-deductible donations and grant.

Want to Make a Difference?

Please consider giving your time, treasures or talents to help young children.
For more information, call 704-878-9980

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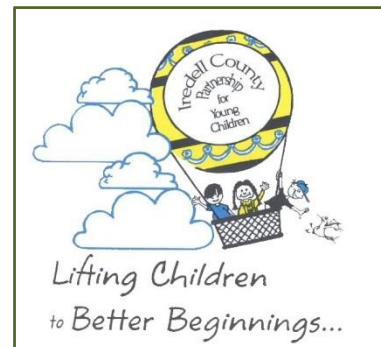
Lisa Pullis

Director, Early Childhood

Jennifer Griffith

Director, Family Support Services

Marnie Reber



MISSION

The mission of the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children is that all children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed.

Iredell County Partnership For Young Children
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