

# Federal Programs Serving Three- and Four-year-olds in North Carolina

A presentation for the  
NC House Select Committee on Early  
Childhood Education Improvement  
November 3, 2011

## OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

Preparing children for school  
success through high-quality  
early education.



# Head Start



# Eligibility ~ Head Start

## Criteria

- Primarily low-income children birth to 5; expectant mothers; and their families
- Categorical eligibility includes:
  - Children in foster care
  - Families receiving public assistance (e.g. TANF benefits)
  - Children and families experiencing homelessness
  - Children with special needs\*

## Determination

- Eligibility is determined by proof of age and income or categorical status

# Head Start's Comprehensive Services



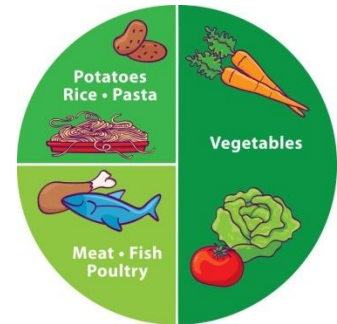
*Education*



*Health*



*Family Support*



*Nutrition*

# Enrollment Data ~ Head Start

- NC Head Start programs served 20,735 children in 2010-11 → (Approx. 12,533 were 4-year-olds)
- **NC Head Start programs are serving 20,901 children in 2011-12 → (Approx. 12,815 4-year-olds)**
- Head Start enrollment is capped by the size of the grants awarded by U.S. DHHS to each local community
- Head Start programs are required by federal statute to maintain waiting lists of eligible children throughout the enrollment year

# Funding Data ~ Head Start

- Head Start funds are awarded from the federal level (U.S. DHHS) directly to the local level
  - \$169.9M of federal funds were awarded to agencies in North Carolina to support 20,901 children birth to 5, expectant mothers, and their families in 2010-11 and 2011-12
  - Funding is awarded as federal grants to 55 North Carolina agencies serving all 100 counties including Community Action Agencies, private non-profits, County Governments, and LEAs

# Preschool Exceptional Children

# Eligibility ~ Preschool Exceptional Children

- A full and individualized evaluation of a child's need must be conducted before any action is taken with respect to determining eligibility.
- Utilizing observation, screening and evaluation results, identification of these children shall be based on informed appropriate educational and/or clinical opinion and appropriate assessment measures.
- To be eligible for services, the disability or delay must have an adverse effect on educational performance and require specially designed instruction



# Eligibility ~ Preschool Exceptional Children

- The most prevalent categories of eligibility for preschool children are:
  - Developmental Delay
  - Speech Impairment, and
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder

# Eligibility ~ Preschool Exceptional Children

## Other eligibility categories include:

- Deaf-blindness
- Deafness, hearing impairment
- Other health impairment
- Visual impairment, including blindness
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Serious emotional disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Intellectual disability
- Specific learning disability

# NC Child Find Trends

Year	December 1 Headcount	April 1 Headcount	Percent Change
2005-2006	11,689	15,179	+30%
2006 -2007	11,956	15,037	+26%
2007-2008	11,859	14,716	+24%
2008 -2009	11,503	14,392	+25%
2009-2010	12,166	15,079	+24%
2010-2011	12,363	15,482	+25%



# NC Child Find Trends

<i>Year</i>	<i>Headcount Dec 1st</i>	<i>Population Statistics for 3, 4, and Pre-K 5 yrs olds</i>	<i>Saturation Rate</i>
2005	11,689	264,533	4.4%
2006	11,956	265,230	4.5%
2007	11,859	266,537	4.4%
2008	11,540	270,277	4.3%
2009	12,166	278,639	4.4%
2010	12,363	278,650	4.4%

Statistics from: Office of State Budget and Management Data Center & CECAS

[http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts\\_and\\_figures/socioeconomic\\_data/population\\_estimates/county\\_estimates.shtm](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm)

# Funding Data ~ Preschool Exceptional Children (IDEA)

FY	State	Federal	Total	# of Children
2009-2010	\$48,038,351	\$11,034,542	\$59,072,893	15,076
2010-2011	\$50,136,492	\$11,113,323	\$61,249,815	15,482
2011-2012	\$51,084,945	\$11,113,496	\$62,198,441	TBD

# Title I Pre-Kindergarten

# Eligibility ~ Title I Pre-Kindergarten

- Eligible children are those who are:
  - Below the age of school entry
- **AND**
  - Determined to be most at risk of failing to meet the state's academic achievement standards.
- Eligibility is determined on the basis of multiple, educationally-relevant criteria, such as developmentally appropriate measures, teacher judgment, and interviews with parents.
- Results of measures are used to rank-order applicants so that those with the greatest need are served first.

# Services ~ Title I Pre-Kindergarten

- Educational program offering:
  - Low teacher-child ratios
  - Licensed teacher & “highly qualified” teacher assistant
  - Comprehensive, research-based curriculum aligned to state standards
  - Ongoing assessment to inform instruction



# Services ~ Title I Pre-Kindergarten

- Transition plans to support children's entry into and exit out of program
- Family engagement promoting two-way communication and involvement in decision-making

# Enrollment Data ~ Title I Pre-Kindergarten

- Title I Pre-Kindergarten programs served 9,376 children in 2010-11.
- 2011-12 data is not yet available.
- Enrollment is capped by the amount of money that schools or districts allocate to pre-kindergarten services.
- A rank-ordered list of eligible children is maintained by the school district so that children can be added throughout the enrollment year as openings become available.

# Funding Data ~ Title I Pre-Kindergarten

- Districts or schools that make the decision to offer a Title I Pre-Kindergarten program also determine the amount of their Title I allocation they will “set aside” to fund the program.
  - 2010-11 Statewide Set-aside = \$58,563,072
  - 2011-12 State Set-aside not yet available