

**North Carolina Children's Trust Fund
SFY 2015-2016 Revenues and Expenditures**

NC General Statute 7B-1302(b)



Report to the

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

By

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

May 1, 2017

Introduction

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §7B-1302(b), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) shall report revenues and expenditures of the North Carolina Children's Trust Fund to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations. DHHS, through the Division of Social Services (NCDSS), provides the staff and support services for implementing the Children's Trust Fund in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 7B-1301 and offers this report on the Fund's revenues and expenditures for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-2016.

SFY 2015-2016 Children's Trust Fund Activities

In SFY 2016, NCDSS used Children's Trust Funds to support three Community Response Programs (CRP). CRP services are intended to fill a gap in the continuum of child maltreatment prevention programming by reaching out to families who have been reported to Child Protection Services in local Departments of Social Services, but whose cases have been screened out at intake, closed with a decision of services recommended, or closed with a decision of no services needed, after an initial assessment.

CRP services build on a family-centered, System of Care approach and promote protective factors that strengthen and support families. In particular, the CRP sites help families to meet their basic needs through referrals to local services and flex funds to assist families in crisis. All services are voluntary, evidence-based or evidence-informed, and free of charge. Sites need to demonstrate collaborative relationships with community partners and a commitment to meaningful parent and family engagement.

The North Carolina Children's Trust Fund programming supports cross-agency collaborative, community-based initiatives to provide outreach, support, and services to individuals and families identified as being at-risk of compromised health and safety to eliminate or reduce those risks by promoting protective factors that strengthen and support families through community response programming. Grantees were required to meet all the following requirements:

1. Provide a Community Response Program targeted to families of children 0-5 years of age and other populations most at risk of child abuse or neglect.
2. Establish and abide by a referral and assessment protocol.
3. Maintain client privacy and abide by the Children's Trust Fund referral protocol.
4. Demonstrate collaborative relationships with community partners in the delivery of services and community child maltreatment prevention strategies.
5. Provide services based on the Principles of Family Support Practice.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to meaningful parent and family engagement.
7. Engage families in Child and Family Team meetings and Family Partnership Agreements.
8. Ensure families have access to supports and services to meet their basic needs, including economic support, benefits access, employment coaching, and financial literacy programming. This includes, maintaining a flex fund to assist families in crisis.
9. Achieve positive outcomes for children and families who participate voluntarily. "Participants" includes parents with children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of underserved and underrepresented groups.

10. Provide and/or make referrals to a service or program that demonstrates an acceptable level of evidence-based or evidence informed practice.
11. Demonstrate positive outcomes using outcome accountability and evaluation tools.
12. Increase public awareness of the NC Children's Trust Fund and the promotion of "Kids First" license plates.

In SFY 2016, the Division of Social Services obligated approximately \$300,000 in Children's Trust Fund dollars (in addition to a 25% agency match) to support 3 pilot Community Response Program Services sites: ***Buncombe County DHHS, Catawba County DSS, and Orange County Partnership for Young Children***. This was their final year providing Community Response Programming in a four-year grant cycle.

Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services

Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) served families in Buncombe County with children under the age of six in their homes and community locations. Buncombe DHHS collaborated with the following two community-based agencies to provide CRP services: FIRST and Community Action Opportunities. CRP services included case management, referrals to community resources, home visits, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program), and Circle of Parent Support Groups. Buncombe DHHS served 145 parents/caregivers and 218 children in SFY 2016.

Catawba County DSS

Catawba County Department of Social Services (DSS), in collaboration with the Catawba County School System, served families with children from birth to age 5 in Catawba County. Services depended on the family's level of need and included case management, Parenting Network classes, referrals to community resources, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers home visitation model. Those who needed more intensive services were referred to Early Head Start and the Parents as Teachers program for monthly home visits. Those families who needed less intensive services received case management, parenting classes, and referrals to community resources. Catawba DSS served 39 parents/caregivers and 39 children in SFY 2016.

Orange County Partnership for Young Children

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children in collaboration with Orange County Department of Social Services (DSS) served families with children aged birth to five in Orange County. Services included case management, home visits, developmental and mental health screenings, assessment of the family's needs, and referrals to community services. Referrals included a variety of services as prioritized by the family, such as financial and housing resources, Head Start/Early Head Start, child care, mental health, developmental services, parenting support and education, etc. In particular, the provider referred families to the following existing evidence-based community resources: The Incredible Years, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Child-Parent Psychotherapy, Early Head Start, and Head Start. The Orange County Partnership for Young Children served 65 parents/caregivers and 79 children in SFY 2016.

Children's Trust Fund Fiscal Data

SFY 2015-2016 Revenues

In SFY 2015-2016, a total of \$448,040 in revenue was generated for the North Carolina Children's Trust Fund. Of this total:

- \$347,837 was received from marriage license fees
- \$20,955 was received from the special license plate fees (Kids First)
- \$79,248 was provided from required contractor match

SFY 2015-2016 Expenditures

A total of \$358,117 was expended through (3) community-based agencies to deliver child abuse and neglect prevention programming during the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Of this total:

- \$265,777 was expended through NC Children's Trust Funds
- \$92,340 was expended through provider match