

# Early Learning Challenge

## Projects and Activities

**House Select Committee on  
Early Education Improvement**  
February 2, 2012



NC Early Childhood Advisory Council

# The Early Learning Challenge in North Carolina

- **Opportunity for bold and transformative action to help assure that all of NC's young children come to school ready for success in school and in life**
- **Grant of \$70 million**
- **4-year grant period:  
Jan 1, 2012–Dec 31, 2015**
- **A collaborative approach to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the system and the outcomes for children**



# NC's Plan: Four Areas of Focus

- **Strengthen the state's early childhood system and build its capacity to foster positive outcomes for young children**
- **Enhance the quality of programs to serve young children and their families and improve access to high-quality programs**
- **Strengthen the early childhood workforce to increase staff and system effectiveness and sustain change**
- **Target high-intensity supports and community infrastructure-building efforts to turn around poor outcomes for young children in the state's highest-need counties**



# Implementation Strategy

- **Lead Agency: Early Childhood Advisory Council—**responsible for overall coordination and specific projects
- **Participating State Agencies—responsible for specific projects:**
  - Division of Child Development and Early Education
  - Division of Public Health
  - Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning
- **Contracts and MOUs with other state and local agencies and organizations**



# Early Childhood Advisory Council projects

- **Grants management and implementation support (\$6,708,211)**
  - Grants management (\$4,478,211)
  - Evaluation (\$1,000,000)
  - Technical assistance reserve (\$400,000)
  - Transformation Zone state-level support (\$830,000)
- **Integrated data system (\$8,894,351)**



# ECAC projects (cont'd)

- **Professional development capacity building (\$75,000)**
  - Professional Development Council (\$25,000)
  - Online Master's degree program (\$50,000)
- **Partnership initiatives (\$10,043,872)**
  - Transformation zone capacity building (\$2,757,572)
  - Leadership collaborative (\$2,112,736)
  - Faith-based child care engagement (\$338,588)
  - Assuring Better Health and Child Outcomes (\$2,665,609)
  - Child care health consultants (\$2,169,367)





# Division of Child Development and Early Education projects

- **Promoting participation in QRIS (\$2,017,266)**
  - Incentives to support programs that voluntarily meet higher standards (\$750,000)
  - Support for programs to join QRIS (\$1,242,266)
  - Task force on licensing (\$25,000)
- **QRIS program quality measure development (\$982,870)**
- **Increasing access to high-quality programs (\$4,491,852)**
  - Support 1 & 2 star programs to earn higher rating (\$1,394,430)
  - Increase access to high quality infant-toddler care (\$2,497,422)
  - Early childhood workforce study (\$600,000)
- **QRIS validation (\$2,393,000)**



# DCDEE projects (cont'd)

- **Enhanced professional development (\$5,419,340)**
  - Infant/toddler specialist (\$280,000)
  - Coaching, mentoring, and TA course (\$25,000)
  - Child Care Resource & Referral training enhancement (\$4,834,340)
  - Healthy behavior specialist (\$280,000)
- **Early learning and development standards (\$281,000)**
- **Certification and licensure (\$1,425,000)**
  - B-K teacher licensure support (\$800,000)
  - Educator efficacy endorsement & certification (\$625,000)





# DCDEE projects (cont'd)

- **Teacher education: access and articulation (\$593,000)**
  - Community college accreditation (\$200,000)
  - Community college innovation fund (\$393,000)
- **Compensation and retention (\$7,197,000)**
  - WAGE\$ (\$4,000,000)
  - T.E.A.C.H.<sup>®</sup> Scholarships (\$3,197,000)
- **Classroom community building (\$495,760)**
- **Program director leadership institute (\$1,214,340)**



# Division of Public Health projects

- **Family strengthening (\$5,989,460)**
  - NorthEast Connects (\$1,998,750)
  - Family strengthening initiatives (\$3,969,210)



# Office of Early Learning projects

- **K-3 assessment (\$9,769,801)**
  - K-3 assessment (\$8,769,801)
    - Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)
    - Formative assessment across the early grades (K-3)
  - Using data to improve classroom instruction (\$1,000,000)
    - Supports school and classroom efforts to improve school experiences of children
- **Family engagement (\$2,000,000)**
  - Utilizes Head Start grantees as “hubs” for professional development



# NC's Goals

**Dramatically improved  
outcomes for  
North Carolina's  
young children**

**A stronger and more  
competitive economy for  
North Carolina**

