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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>December 1 Headcount</th>
<th>April 1 Headcount</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>11,689</td>
<td>15,179</td>
<td>+30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>11,956</td>
<td>15,037</td>
<td>+26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>11,859</td>
<td>14,716</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>11,503</td>
<td>14,392</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>12,166</td>
<td>15,079</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>12,363</td>
<td>15,482</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## NC Child Find Trends

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

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

[http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/nkosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/nkosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm)
# Funding Data ~ Preschool Exceptional Children (IDEA)

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