

North Carolina Early Childhood Funders Collaborative

Mission:

We are a group of North Carolina-based funders who bring the collective voice and resources of philanthropy together to promote the development and sustainability of a comprehensive early childhood system that benefits all children, families, the workforce and communities in North Carolina.

Vision:

North Carolina's children arrive to kindergarten health ready for school and are succeeding by the end of third grade.

The NC Early Childhood Funder's Collaborative was born in late 2016 and has taken a "Big Tent Approach" with foundations interested in creating a collective voice to help shape the early childhood landscape across the state.

There are approximately 40 interested foundations:

AJ Fletcher	NCNG
Belk Foundation	Oak Foundation
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC Foundation	Phillips Foundation
Brady Education Foundation	PNC
Cemala Foundation	PNC - Charlotte
ChildTrust Foundation	Pope Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro	SAS Institute
Community Foundation of Western NC	Sisters of Mercy
Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation	Skeebo Foundation
Foundation for a Healthy High Point	Social Venture Partners
Foundation for the Carolinas	Stephen L. Cornwell Foundation
Gambrell Foundation	The Duke Endowment
Impact Alamance	The Joseph M. Bryan Foundation
John M. Belk Endowment	Triangle Community Foundation
John Rex Endowment	United Way of Central Carolinas
Kate B. Reynolds	United Way of the Greater Triangle
Kohn Charitable Trust	Weaver Foundation
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation	William M. Armfield, Sr. Foundation
Mebane Foundation	Winer Family Foundation
Mercanas Foundation	Winston Salem Foundation
Morgan Creek Foundation	Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

We have had steady progress in forming relationships and sharing funding, research and advocacy interests.

We have held six convenings to create our mission and vision and educate ourselves on the collaborative landscape. Some speakers:

- Elliot Regenstein, Ounce of Prevention
- Rhett Mabry, The Duke Endowment on Blue Meridian Partners
- Michael Weinberg, New Mexico funders collaborative
- Ret Boney, NCNG on the Texas funders collaborative
- John Metcalf, The Policy Group
- Joe Crocker, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust on Great Expectations initiative
- NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading initiative
- Ret Boney on the Alliance for Early Success survey

After creating our mission and vision, we determined how to put these words into action. We will leverage our human and financial capital to:

- Advocate for local, regional, state and national infrastructure, governance, policy and programs that improve outcomes for NC's infants, young children and families;
- Inform policymakers and stakeholders by supporting and promoting research and sharing community-, county- and state-level information helpful in developing effective policy and programs;
- Collectively contribute ideas, research and resources, in a shared commitment to the betterment of our grantees, our respective communities and the state;
- Expand awareness of organizations and programs proven to achieve measurable and sustainable outcomes for young children and families;
- Build public will by engaging government, business, community organizations and other philanthropic partners;
- Support work that aligns with existing efforts (such as the programs, policies and practices identified by the NC Pathways for Grade-Level Reading framework); and
- Foster collaboration in the field, creating conditions that encourage partnerships among nonprofits, government agencies and other entities working in the early childhood arena.

To date, we have leveraged select resources to co-fund five projects. Fourteen foundations have committed over \$50,000 to sponsor staff support in 2018 to help drive the evolution of the collaborative.

Contact us

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