

Summary Notice of Funding Availability

Reporting Form

DHHS Division/Office Issuing This Notice: Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)

Date of This Notice: February 2, 2026

Program Name: Child Care Resource and Referral Services Program

Purpose of the RFA: The purpose of this Request for Application is to provide technical assistance to early care and education programs according to NC's technical assistance framework: North Carolina's Professional Development Framework for Continuous Quality Improvement and develop a professional development learning community (PLC) to increase the management skills for current and aspiring child care directors and serve as a resource hub for families receiving child care.

Description: The North Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Core Services Program is designed to ensure that 1) families have access to the information needed to become informed consumers of early care and education programs; 2) early educators have access to professional development and consultation services to help them improve their instructional practices and overall operations; and 3) families have access to enroll their children in high quality child care and early education programs.

Funding Availability: This RFA will be for a 3-year funding cycle with an optional 2-year renewal term. Up to **four (4) awards of up to \$2,000,000 per year** will be made under this RFA to provide services in each of the regions of North Carolina as outlined in the chart below. Eligibility for renewals is contingent upon contract compliance, project performance, and availability of funding. The initial contract period will be July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

DCDEE will determine the actual funding amount based on the proposed execution of the project and the utilization of funds as outlined in the successful applicant's proposal, pending funding availability

| Regions | Counties |
|----------------|--|
| Eastern Region | Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Gates, Martin, Pitt, Beaufort, Dare, Tyrell, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Craven, Jones, Onslow, Carteret, Pender, Brunswick, New Hanover, Columbus, Sampson, Harnett, Duplin, Johnston, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene, Wilson, Edgecombe, Nash, Franklin, Warren, Bertie, Hertford, Halifax, and North Hampton |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| South Central Region | Chatham, Lee, Moore, Hoke, Scotland, Robeson, Bladen, Cumberland, Stanly, Union, Anson, Richmond, Montgomery, and Mecklenburg |
| North Central Region | Caswell, Person, Granville, Vance, Durham, Orange, Alamance, Randolph, Davidson, Guildford, and Wake |
| Western Region | Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Jackson, Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, Graham, Swain, Haywood, Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, Polk, Rutherford, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mc Dowell, Burke, Caldwell, Cabarrus, Catawba, Iredell, Rowan, Davie, Alexander, Ashe, Wilkes, Alleghany, Surry, Yadkin, Forsyth, Stokes and Rockingham |

Applicant Eligibility:

This RFA is open to state agencies and universities, public and private nonprofit organizations with a current 501(c)(3) standing with knowledge of North Carolina's early childhood education mixed delivery system and expertise in developmentally and culturally appropriate practices for young children birth – 12 years of age. Extensive knowledge and expertise in providing intensive coaching and consultation to the child care workforce and supporting families in seeking child care solutions.

How to Apply:

EMAIL an electronic PDF of your application to the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education via this email: DCDEE.Contracts.Unit.RFA@dhhs.nc.gov

The signature of an authorized official is required on the application face sheet. An electronic signature or an electronic scanned copy of the signed application face sheet will be accepted. **Only electronic application submissions via email will be accepted**, i.e., do not mail, fax, or deliver copies of the application to DCDEE's physical or mailing address.

Intent to Apply:

Eligible agencies and/or organizations interested in applying for this RFA are encouraged to notify DCDEE of their intent to apply via the following link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7SW2XGK> no later than **5:00 p.m., March 31, 2026**.

Agencies and/or organizations are not required to notify DCDEE of their intent to respond to this RFA; this information is requested to assist DCDEE in planning. Responses to this notice of intent are not binding and will not impact the review and scoring of your RFA submission. Data from this survey is used by the State PREP Team for planning and research purposes only.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE: DCDEE plans on hosting a Pre-Application Conference for this RFA on **March 17, 2026 at 1:30 pm**. During this time, an overview of the RFA will be presented along with an opportunity for Q&A. Please click the link to join.

Join from the webinar link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m065723c0e8d8802175dd5ce916cd38ea>

Join by the webinar number

Webinar number (access code): 2433 190 8839

Webinar password: child (24453 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Panelist password: dlihc (35442 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-646-992-2010,,24331908839#24453#](tel:+1-646-992-2010,,24331908839#24453#) United States Toll (New York City)

[+1-202-860-2110,,24331908839#24453#](tel:+1-202-860-2110,,24331908839#24453#) United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric password.

Deadline for Submission:

Applications, subject to the following conditions, must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.,
April 6, 2026.

For more information please contact: Candice Bailey (candice.bailey@dhhs.nc.gov)