



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: September 3, 2026

Program Name: American Recovery Act (ARA) Increasing Child Care Supply in North Carolina

Purpose of the RFA: The purpose of this Request for Application is to support DCDEE's implementation of disaster recovery efforts funded through the American Relief Act (Public Law 118-158.). This funding is intended to support the construction of child care centers on NC Community College and The University of North Carolina (UNC) System campuses that serve the counties affected by Tropical Storms Helene and Debby.

Description: North Carolina relies on high-quality, affordable early child care and education to support children's healthy development and learning, to allow parents to work, and to keep businesses running. Birth-to-five programs are in crisis—one that has been decades in the making and was exacerbated by the pandemic. Now, recent natural disasters have further eroded North Carolina's already struggling early care and education system.

NC DCDEE is requesting information from these colleges and universities that serve disaster affected counties and are interested in pursuing funding for the purpose of construction or renovation as described in program instruction [ACF-OCC-CCDF-PI-2025-06](#), dated July 16, 2025, outlines the one allowable use/activity that NC is implementing to support child care supply in disaster affected counties. For more information about this program, visit ACF Supplemental Terms and Conditions here:

https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/OCC.93.489-FY26-CCDF-CCDX-Disaster-T-C_Final.pdf.

As part of NC DCDEE's application for American Relief Act (Public Law 118-158) supplemental disaster relief funds, increasing child care supply in disaster affected counties was identified as a priority. NC DCDEE is requesting information from NC Community College System and The University of North Carolina (UNC) System campuses who are interested in building a child care center on campus available government owned (state or county) land, or renovating existing campus buildings or child care centers with the purpose of increasing child care supply. Once operational, this type of arrangement will serve as an employment source for the area, a resource for staff, students and the community in accessing children and a workforce building structure where students can obtain experience as part of a child care academy an apprenticeship program, higher education degree program or High School CTE coursework.

Funding Availability: NC 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. The funding period will be December 10, 2026 –September 30, 2030.

Applicant Eligibility:

This RFA is open to the North Carolina Universities and Community Colleges **ONLY**.

How to Apply:

A link to submit the application and detailed application submission instructions will be available on the DCDEE website by **5:00pm, September 14, 2026**.

Intent to Apply:

Eligible agencies and/or organizations interested in applying for this RFA are encouraged to notify NC DCDEE of their intent to apply via the following link,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8YFY3WY> no later than **5:00 p.m., October 6, 2026**.

University of North Carolina Universities and Colleges are not required to notify NC DCDEE of their intent to respond to this RFA; this information is requested to assist NC DCDEE in planning. Responses to this notice of intent are not binding and will not impact the review and scoring of your RFA submission.

Pre-Application Conference: NC DCDEE is hosting a Pre-Application Conference for this RFA on **October 6, 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 online.

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=ma6881f485226d00416ee93d6406690ea>

Join by the webinar number

Webinar number (access code): 2433 598 4856

Webinar password: care (2273 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Deadline for Submission:

Applications, subject to the following conditions, must be received not later than **5:00 p.m., November 2, 2026**.

DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES concerning this RFA send in writing to:

DCDEE Contracts Unit RFA: Email address: DCDEE.Contracts.Unit.RFA@dhhs.nc.gov