NC DHHS

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: October 16, 2026

Program Name: Family Child Care Home Direct Support Pilot Program

Purpose of the RFA: The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to expand child care capacity in selected counties across North Carolina. The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), in partnership with three Councils of Government (COGs), will recruit, establish, and support new family child care homes to increase access to high-quality child care. The initiative will provide comprehensive onboarding, coaching, mentorship, training, and workforce supports to assist prospective and newly established family child care providers with successfully launching, developing, and sustaining high-quality child care programs. According to Session Law SB 257 (Session Law 2026-41), Section 9M.2.(a).

Funding Availability: This RFA will be for a 2-year funding cycle. Up to **three (3) awards of up to $1,083,333.00** will be made under this RFA to provide services to each region in North Carolina as outlined in the chart below. The contract period will be January 15, 2027-January 14, 2029. All funding is contingent upon availability.

Applicant Eligibility:
This RFA is open to three North Carolina Councils of Governments (COGs), one of which is in a county from the Mountain Region, one of which is in a county from the Coastal Plain Region, and one of which is in a county from the Piedmont Region to coordinate a two-year pilot program to build child care capacity in those counties **ONLY.**

Service Areas for each region as defined by G.S. 143B-1373(a)		
Mountain Region	**Coastal Plain Region**	**Piedmont Region**
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowel, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania,	Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Johnson, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank,	Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cleveland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Iredell, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly,

Watauga, Wilks, and Yancey	Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson	Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin

How to Apply:
A link to submit the application and detailed application submission instructions will be available on the DCDEE website by **5:00pm, October 30, 2026.**

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/YWSBPMB no later than **5:00 p.m., November 18, 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.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE: DCDEE plans to host a Pre-Application Conference for this RFA on **November 18. 2026 at 9:30 am-10:30 am.** 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=mb45c58585c6804c41b87608667c71a2a

Join by the webinar number
Webinar number (access code): 2427 191 7042
Webinar password: care (2647 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., December 1, 2026.**

DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES concerning this RFA send in writing to:
DCDEE Contracts Unit RFA: Email address: DCDEE.Contracts.Unit.RFA@dhhs.nc.gov