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: North Carolina Child Care Academies

Purpose of the RFA: The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to expand the early childhood workforce by establishing Child Care Academies through North Carolina Community Colleges and institutions within the University of North Carolina System. As part of the Child Care Academy model, the RFA must deliver a curriculum that meets the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) training standards and aligns with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS).

Funding Source: Preschool Development Grant Birth-Through Five (PDG B-5)

Funding Availability: A maximum of **$50,000.00** will be available through this application for up to six months to administer child care academies for the period of January 15, 2027-July 31, 2027.

Applicant Eligibility: This RFA is open to the North Carolina Community Colleges and universities included in the UNC System **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, 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/XFGRK72 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 on 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 **November 18, 2026 at 1:30 pm-2:30 pm.** During this time, an overview of the RFA will be presented along with an opportunity for Q&A.

Join from the webinar link

https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=ma80ac6b1433e87c09ca56947e118198f

Join by the webinar number

Webinar number (access code): 2432 385 8294
Webinar password: care (2273 when dialing from a phone or video system)

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

Deadline for Submission:
Applications, subject to the following conditions, must be received via email no later than **5:00 p.m., December 1, 2026.**