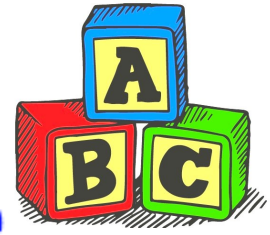




Building Blocks



NCHSA Conference in July in Wilmington

The NCHSA Annual Conference 2024 is July 22-26 at the Hotel Ballantyne in Wilmington, NC.

The conference is broken into two sections: Teacher's Institute 2024 is July 22-23 and the Annual Conference/Family Engagement 2024 from July 24-26.

[Use this link to register for the conference, submit a session proposal, or to become a sponsor or exhibitor.](#)

"This event is the premier professional development gathering for the Head Start and Early Head Start community, with more than 500 conference attendees are expected each year," said NCHSA President Terry David.

The conference features more than 60 educational sessions, exhibits marketplace showcasing resources and products from some of the leading companies in their industry, a banquet honoring scholarship and award winners from around the state, and plenty of collaboration time."

This training experience is ideal for executive and mid-level management, members of governing bodies, direct service staff, as well as parents and community partners.

Child Care Funding Cliff is Real & Coming

The following article was published by EdNC on April 7 and written by Katie Dukes. [To read the entire article, click here.](#)

It's become increasingly clear this week that

without intervention from the state's legislature, the sunset of pandemic-era child care stabilization funds – also known as the funding cliff – is likely to have devastating effects on the availability, affordability, and quality of child care in North Carolina.

At the meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, both Sandy Weathersbee, owner of Providence Preparatory School in Charlotte, and Ariel Ford, director of the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE), referenced the results of the CCR&R Council's most recent survey of child care providers. Here are some key findings:

About 3 in 10 programs (29%) expect to close.

About 4 in 10 centers (41%) expect to close or combine classrooms, leading to decreased enrollment capacity.

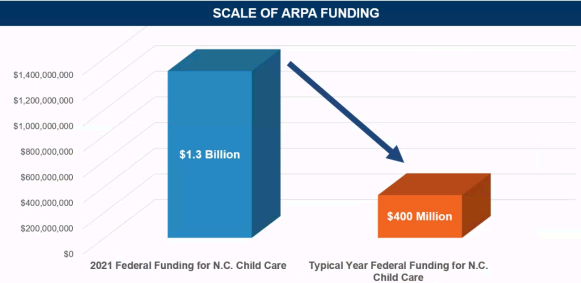
More than half of programs (54%) plan to cut costs, which could reduce program quality, including child nutrition.

Almost all programs (88%) expect to increase parent fees in the second half of the year, raising the annual costs for families by more than \$1,000 per year.

When asked to name one support that would help programs be sustainable, the most common response was increasing funds for staff salaries (38%).

As reported, other states have not only found ways to avoid their own cliffs, but have developed innovative, systemic solutions to the child crisis. [Check out a new version of our work that was published by Early Learning Nation this week to learn more.](#)

2024 North Carolina Child Care Pandemic Relief Funding Cliff



April 8-12, 2024