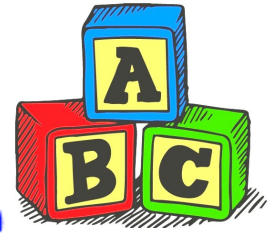




Building Blocks



NC Losing Child Care Options

The article below was excerpted from an EdNC story published on July 30.

The pace of child care center closures has doubled – from an average net loss of four programs per month from February 2020 through June 2023, to an average net loss of nine programs per month from July 2024 through June 2023– as stabilization grants have diminished.

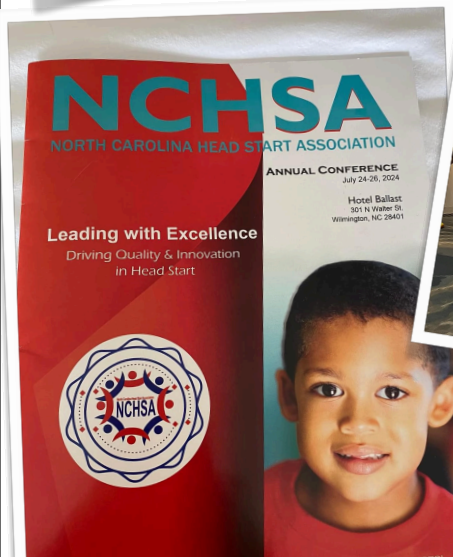
An extension of those grants was set to expire on June 30, creating a “funding cliff” that was expected to prompt as many as one-third of programs to close their doors.

But in the final week of June, the General Assembly committed \$67.5 million to extend compensation grants, at a reduced amount, to child care providers. Kandice Scarberry, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services (which oversees DCDEE), said this amount is “insufficient to fully cover the first two quarters of the fiscal year,” which began July 1.

Rather than falling off a funding cliff, North Carolina’s licensed child care system is now rolling down a steep hill toward the end of 2024.

NCHSA Conference a Success

The NC Head Start Association concluded another successful Annual Conference last week. The conference entitled *Leading with Excellence: Driving Quality & Education in Head Start* was held July 24-26 at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington. Below are just a few photographs from the gathering.



July 28 - August 2, 2024