



Local Financing for Early Learning Trainings Across North Carolina

Overview

Counties and municipalities across the US are increasingly recognizing the importance of early learning for the well being of their children and the economy. Local revenue streams offer a means to expand early learning opportunities for communities, particularly as child populations are growing, brain science is showing the importance of the early years in establishing a foundation for learning, and demand is increasing from working parents.

In April 2016, the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF) launched our new online resource - [Local Funding for Early Learning: A North Carolina Community Toolkit](#). The toolkit offers communities interested in local investments in early childhood the information and resources needed to determine their readiness for this type of initiative.

A five-member Advisory Council, representing business, economic development and local government provided expert consultation on the development and content of the toolkit. The toolkit is non-partisan and does not recommend any single approach to advancing local policy and funding mechanisms.

In December 2016, NCECF led a training with community leaders from Buncombe, Durham and Forsyth Counties. The NC Budget and Tax Center, the national Forum for Youth Investment and the NC Association of County Commissioners delivered sessions in the training.

Participants included a Chamber CEO, County Commissioners, a County Manager, non-profit leaders, business leaders and foundations. These communities are actively investigating how more children can access quality early learning through local funding. The funding can include both private and public monies to increase access to NC Pre-K or subsidize child care, just to name a few examples.

NCECF will hold a second training in December of 2017 for early learning champions in Watauga, Transylvania and Guilford counties and will continue to publish new case studies and track innovation and upcoming initiatives around the country.

2018 Trainings

Interested communities can contact Lisa Finaldi, NCECF's Community Engagement Leader about trainings in 2018. The full-day training includes three communities that can each bring a team of 10 members. Teams should include early learning champions such as:

- Business leaders
- Economic development professionals
- Elected and appointed local officials
- Faith leaders
- Leaders in local early learning organizations
- Foundations

Participants will learn:

- How local governments are [organized](#), and how the local [budget process](#) works.
- What are the [financial mechanisms](#) to generate local revenue in NC.
- What are the existing federal and state [funding streams](#) for early learning in NC.
- How to assess [community readiness](#) for a local initiative.
- About the opportunity to join a learning community with others working on local investment strategies.

Presenters include:

- Elizabeth Gaines, Senior Fellow, Forum for Youth Investment
- Alexandra Sirota, Director, NC Budget and Tax Center
- Linda Millsaps, Research Director, NC Association of County Commissioners
- A leader from a community that has invested local funding in early learning.

Budget

The full-day training cost is \$1,200 per community in 2018 and includes a binder with the full-color toolkit. For the training to be most effective, we require three communities to participate.

NCECF is also offering sponsorships to offset the costs of the trainings. Sponsorships include:

- Recognition in all pre-training marketing.
- Recognition on all training day signage and materials.
- Recognition on all post-training outreach.
- Submission to local media an Opinion Editorial after the training, signed by the sponsors' Corporate Officer.

Building vibrant, desirable places for people to live and businesses to grow begins with ensuring each child in a community has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential.

Join with us to fulfill this vision!