



**NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY EDUCATION COALITION**

Tuesdays for Tots: State of Babies in NC

June 16, 2020



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The NC Early Education Coalition is a proud partner in the national ZERO TO THREE Think Babies™ campaign and in the Pritzker Children's Initiative's National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

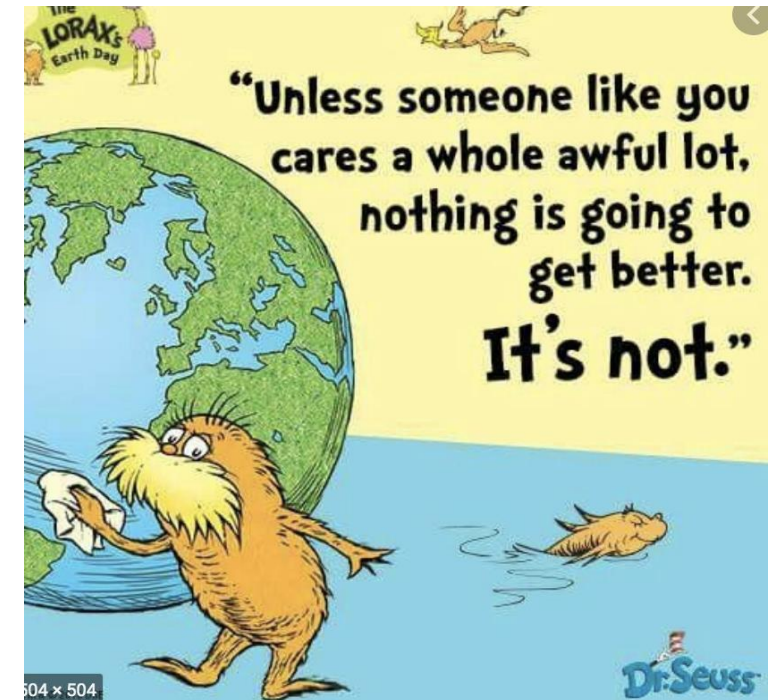
Message of Hope from Elliott



“There’s a light
at the end of
the tunnel!”

Goals for Today

- Update on legislative action
- The State of Babies in NC
- Advocacy tips and strategies



Status of Child Care

- Reopening as the state reopens, changing picture daily
- No longer “essential” child care only
- Child care programs need to apply if not previously open
- All programs must meet CDC guidelines
- Operating grants available to support programs
- Automatically given by DCDEE to child care programs open in April, May and/or June



NC Child Care Snapshot

Pre-COVID

- 265,432 children enrolled in regulated child care (25% receiving subsidy)
- 41,000 teachers and staff
- 5,746 licensed child care facilities
 - 76% centers/255,600 children
 - 24% homes/9,900 children

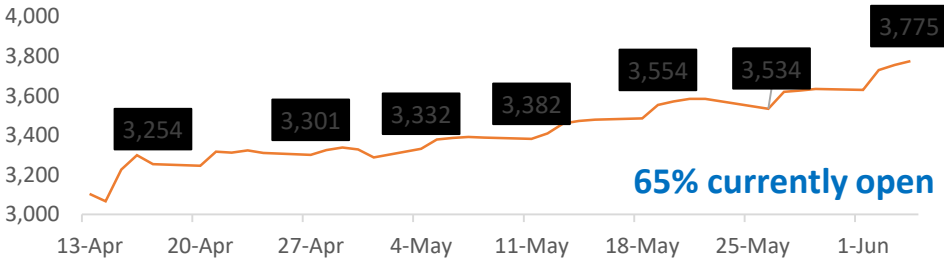
During COVID

- 90,570 children attending child care (*49,553 in early April*)
- 3,755 providers currently open (*3,316 in early April*)

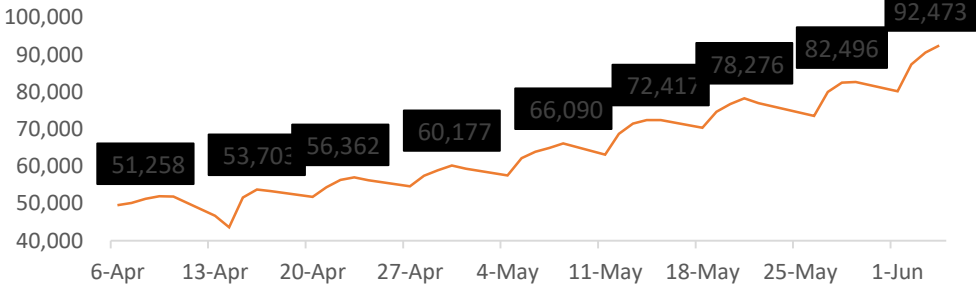
Vacancy Rates at Child Care Programs

	4/6	5/4	6/4
Overall (62% open)	68%	63%	50%
Centers (53% open)	70%	65%	52%
Homes (88% open)	41%	31%	25%

Number of Providers Applying to Be Open



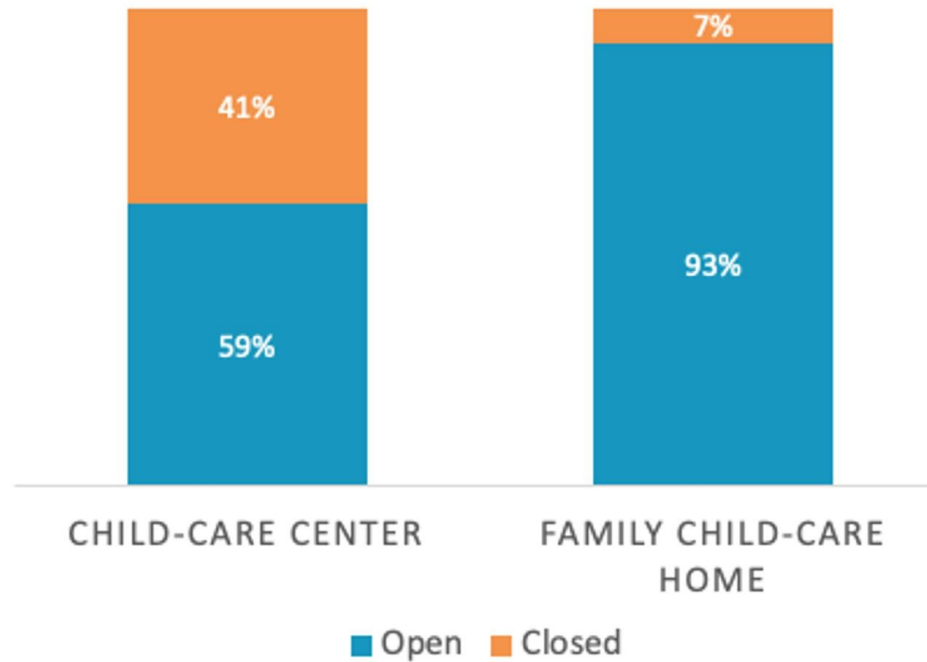
Total Reported Attendance at All Facilities



Status of Child Care

41% of all child-care centers in N.C. remain closed

PERCENT OF CHILD-CARE FACILITIES CLOSED AS OF MAY 29, BY TYPE

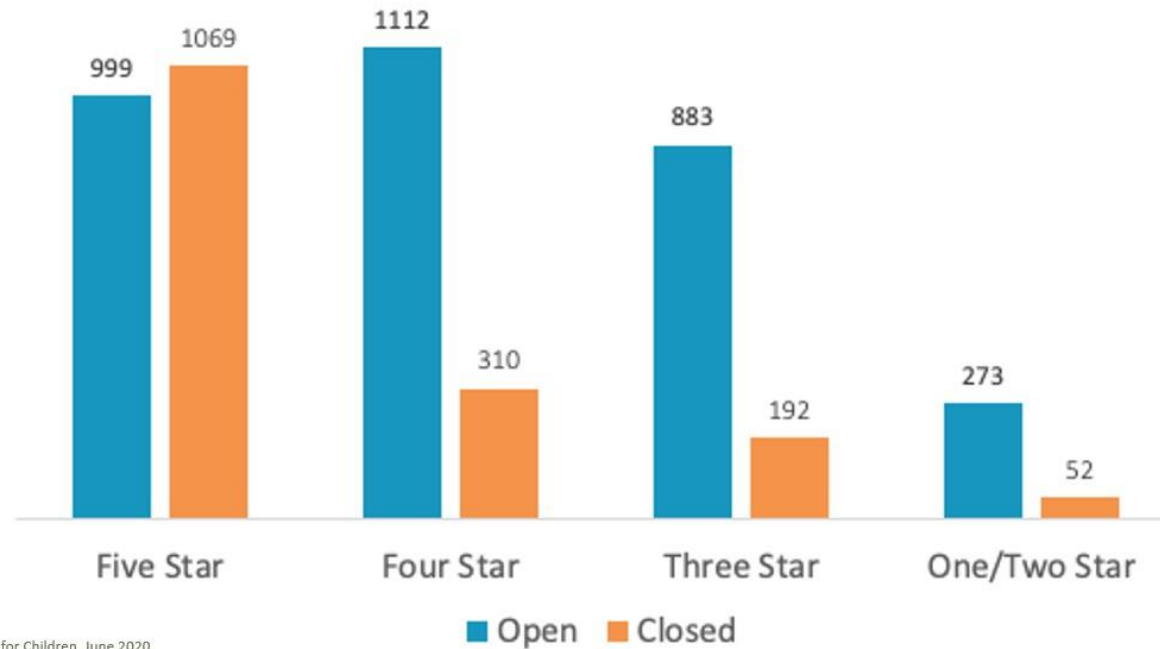


Source: Special Data Request to the NC Partnership for Children, June 2020

Status of Child Care

A majority of five-star child-care facilities remain closed

NUMBER OF CHILD-CARE FACILITIES CLOSED IN N.C. AS OF MAY 29, 2020, BY QUALITY



Source: Special Data Request to the NC Partnership for Children, June 2020

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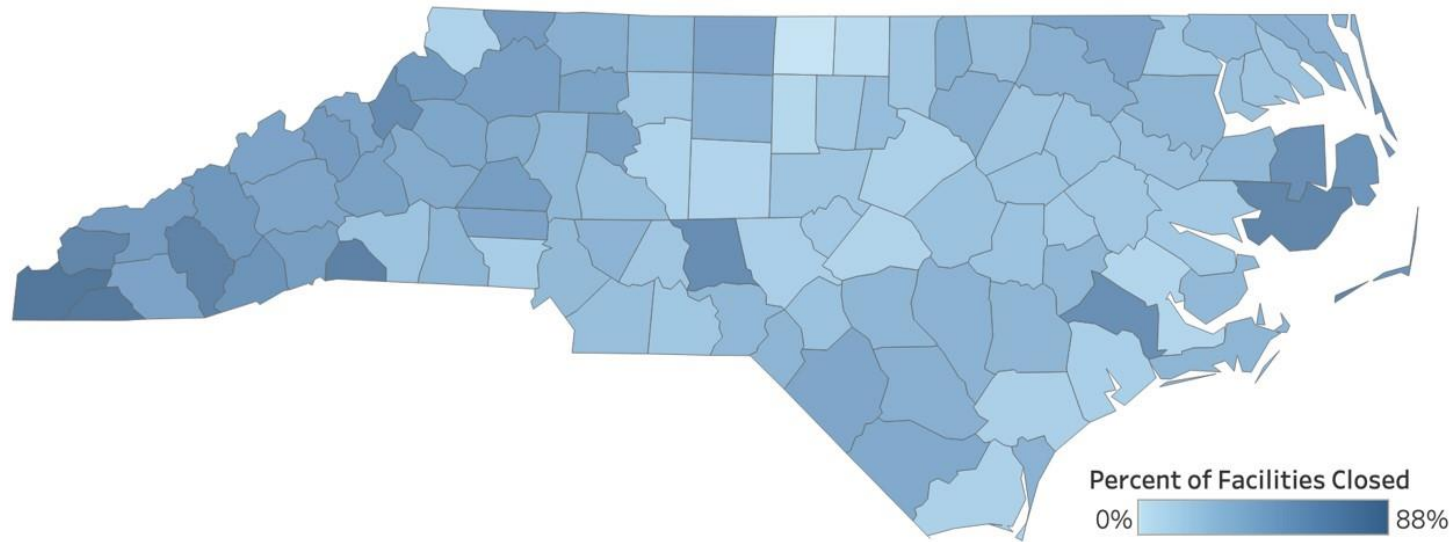
[@NCBUDGETANDTAX](https://twitter.com/NCBUDGETANDTAX)

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Status of Child Care

33% of child-care facilities remain closed in N.C.

PERCENT OF CHILD-CARE FACILITIES CLOSED BY COUNTY AS OF MAY 29, 2020



County Data
Handout

Source: Special Data Request to the NC Partnership for Children, June 2020

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Federal Action

- U.S. House passed the HEROES Act
 - \$3 trillion relief package
 - Includes \$7 billion for child care through CCDBG
- Democratic bill in US Congress House and Senate – Child Care Is Essential Act
 - Would create a \$50 billion Child Care Stabilization fund through CCDBG
- Republican resolution in Senate
 - Calls for a \$25 billion investment in CCDBG
 - Letter of support for child care signed by Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis

NC General Assembly

- In Short Session now – may stop June 25th, hit pause, and return late August
- Focus on **Educating policymakers** about the child care crisis and what is needed to stabilize and rebuild the system
- **Focus on the Why Child Care is Essential –**
 - ✓ **For children’s healthy development and early learning**
 - ✓ **For families to be able to work and return to work**
 - ✓ **For the state’s economic prosperity and economic recovery**

NC Legislative Short Session Overview

- So far:
 - **Federal Relief Funding Allocated - \$1.6 Billion**
 - Included \$118 million for child care relief from CARES Act
 - \$19 M for pot that includes food banks, protective services, shelters, NC CARE360, technology and child care
 - Also appropriated \$48 M (\$36M child care subsidy and \$12M child care quality)
 - \$125M in small business loans through the Golden Leaf Foundation – child care can apply
 - **Federal Relief Funding Remaining - \$1.5 Billion**
- Still primarily focused on COVID-19 issues
- Predicting \$5 billion budget shortfall
- Leandro case – court could order more funding for early education through NC Pre-K and Smart Start

Bills to Watch

- **H1117 – Protect Child Care Workers/Covid-19, Reps. von Haefen (Wake), Belk (Mecklenburg), Hunt (Mecklenburg), Fisher (Buncombe) primary sponsors**
 - Increased bonuses for child care teachers and staff
 - Health and sanitation supplied, PPE, and deep cleaning services
 - Covers testing costs
 - Additional child care health consultants
- **H1130 – Invest in Sound Basic Education, Reps. Von Haefen (Wake), Gill (Wake), Hunt (Mecklenburg), Russell (Ashe,Watauga), Early Childhood Provisions**
 - \$10.5M Increase reimbursement rate for slots for NC PreK,
 - \$10M NCPC for Smart Start Partnerships,
 - \$3M increase recruitment and retention for quality early childhood educators
 - \$7M to DPH for Infant-Toddler Program

Communities for the Education of Every Child NC

- New coalition calling on North Carolina and lawmakers to comply with constitutional duty to provide a sound, basic education to all children
- Mobilizing community leaders, parents, students, educators, and advocates around a common goal: to invest boldly and equitably in education for all children
- Public launch tomorrow, June 17th at 12pm!
 - Register: <http://bit.ly/2BVS9jC>
- Take the Pledge: <https://p2a.co/3imsgmg>
- Follow on social media @EveryChildNC and #LeadWithLeandro

Questions?





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The State of Babies in NC



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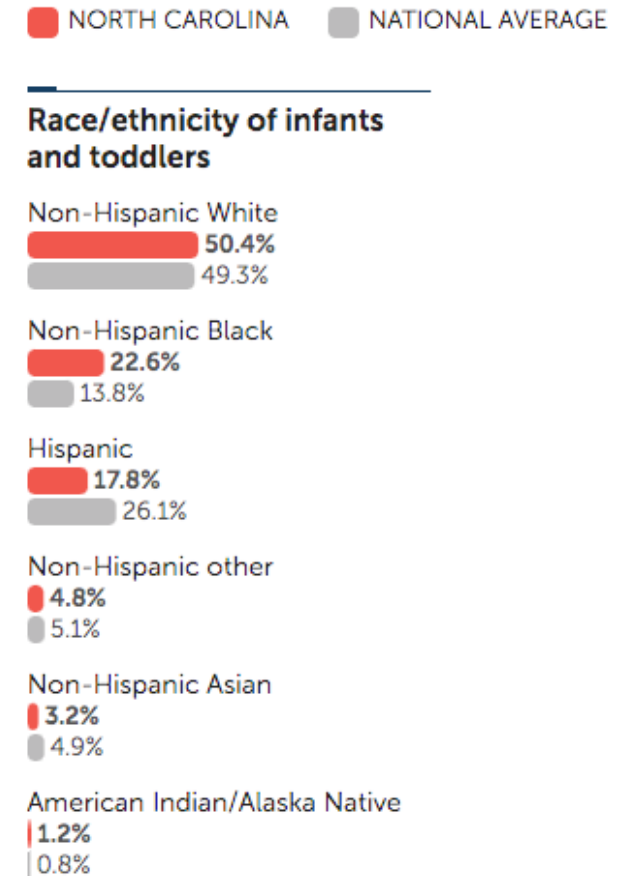
State of Babies Yearbook: 2020

- New report from ZERO TO THREE compiles nearly 60 indicators that affect the well-being of children ages 0 to 3
- Shows national and state-by-state progress across three policy areas: Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences.

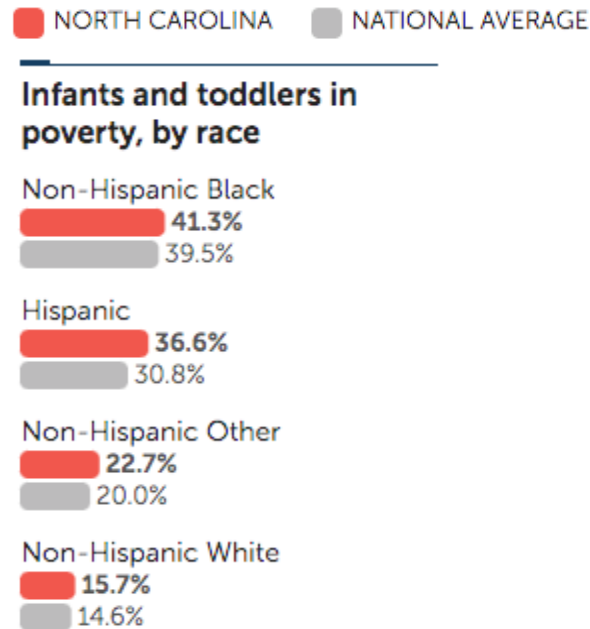


State of Babies: Overview

- 365,273 infants and toddlers – 3.6% of the state’s population
- 51% live in low-income households
- 14.9% of babies live in rural areas
- 60% of mothers in the labor force



State of Babies: Disparities



- 41% of Black babies and 37% of Hispanic babies are living in poverty compared to 16% of White babies.
- Systemic racism leads to children of color facing some of the biggest obstacles:
 - Low birthweight
 - Unstable housing
 - Limited access to quality child care.
- COVID-19 has exacerbated these disparities and barriers
- Harmful and life-altering effects begin even before birth.



State of Babies: Maternal and Child Health Inequities

- Indicators:

- Prenatal care
- Preterm births
- Low birthweight
- Infant Mortality
- Maternal morbidity and mortality
- Breastfeeding

- Recommended Policy Solutions:

- Expand Medicaid eligibility and coverage length
- Increase participation in WIC
- Ensure workplace accommodations
- Provide access to paid family and medical leave
- Expand access to home visiting

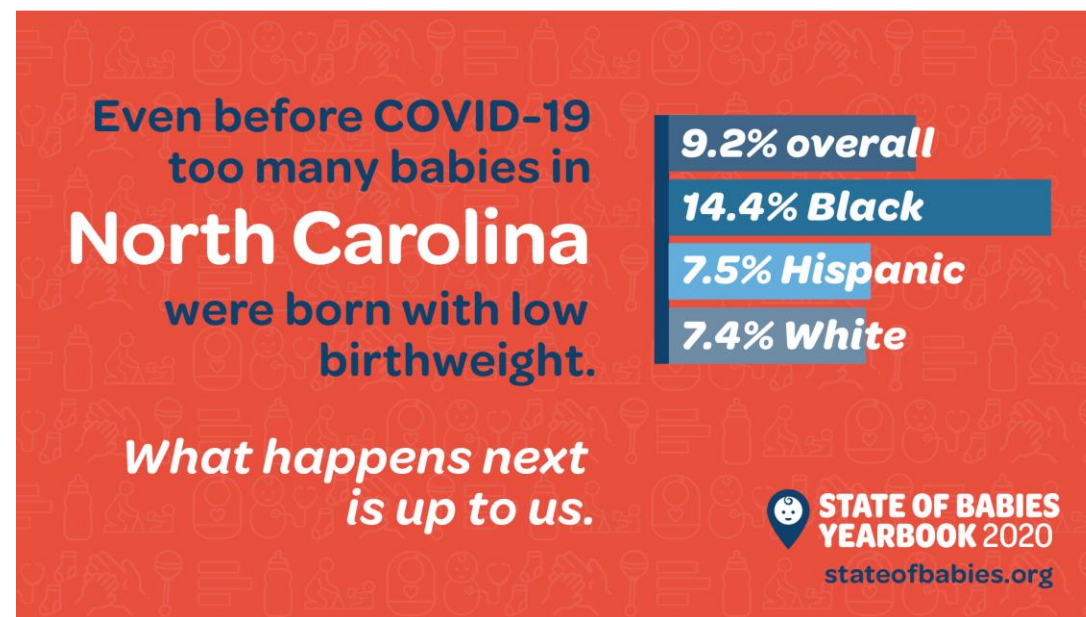
- Causes

- Effects of stress related to racism and poverty
- Access to medical care and family support services
- Barriers to breastfeeding
- Experience with the medical care system

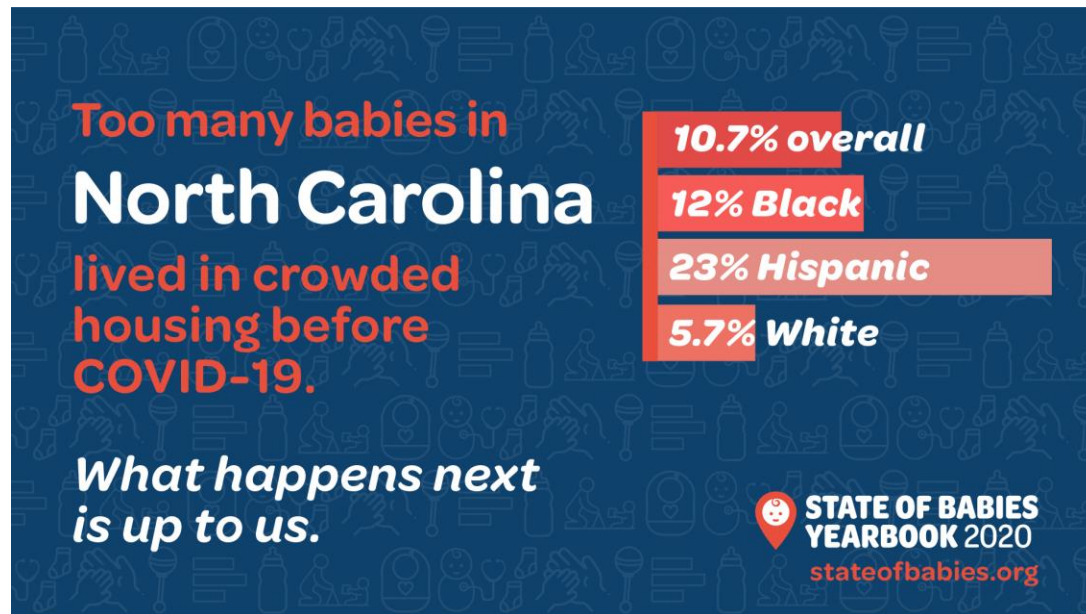


State of Babies: Good Health

- Positive indicators
 - Low food insecurity
 - Insured low-income infants/toddlers
 - Vaccination rate
- Negative indicators
 - Low birthweight
 - Infant mortality rate
 - Late/no prenatal care and preventative care



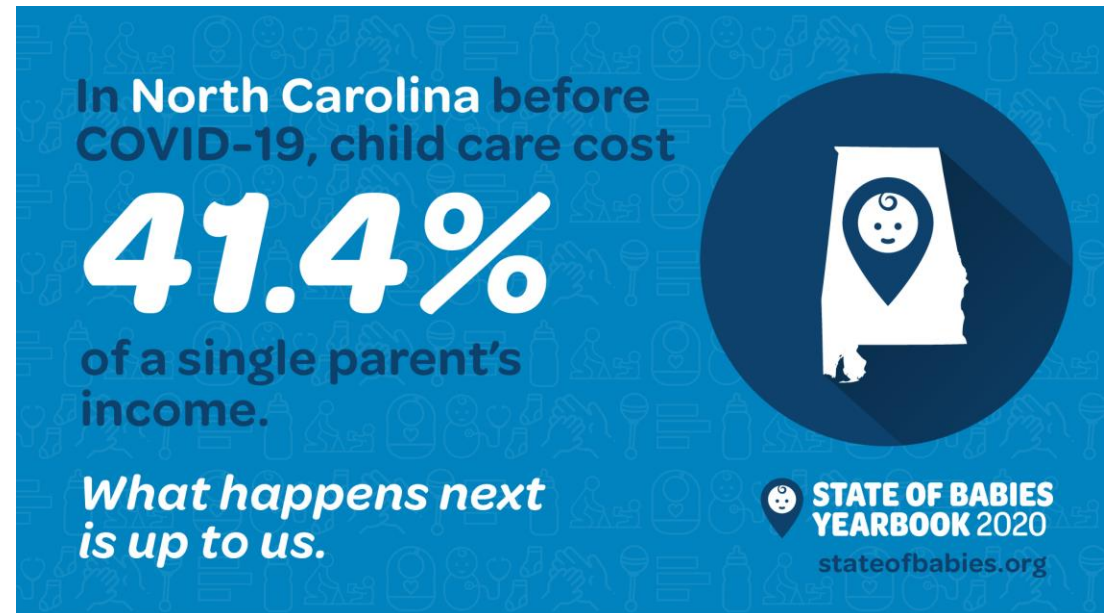
State of Babies: Strong Families



- Positive indicators
 - Infant/toddler maltreatment rate
 - Family resilience
 - Neighborhood safety
- Negative indicators
 - Infants/toddlers receiving home visiting
 - Crowded and unstable housing
 - TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty

State of Babies: Early Learning

- Positive indicators
 - Developmental screening rate
 - Low-income infants/toddlers in CCDF-funded care
 - Percent of parents reading and singing to baby everyday
- Negative indicators
 - Cost of care
 - Early Head Start access
 - Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services





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Advocacy Tips and Strategies



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Poll

What action have you taken for early education so far?

Let us know in the poll!

**No more
baby talk.
It's time
for action.**



Early Education COVID-19 Advocacy Toolkit!

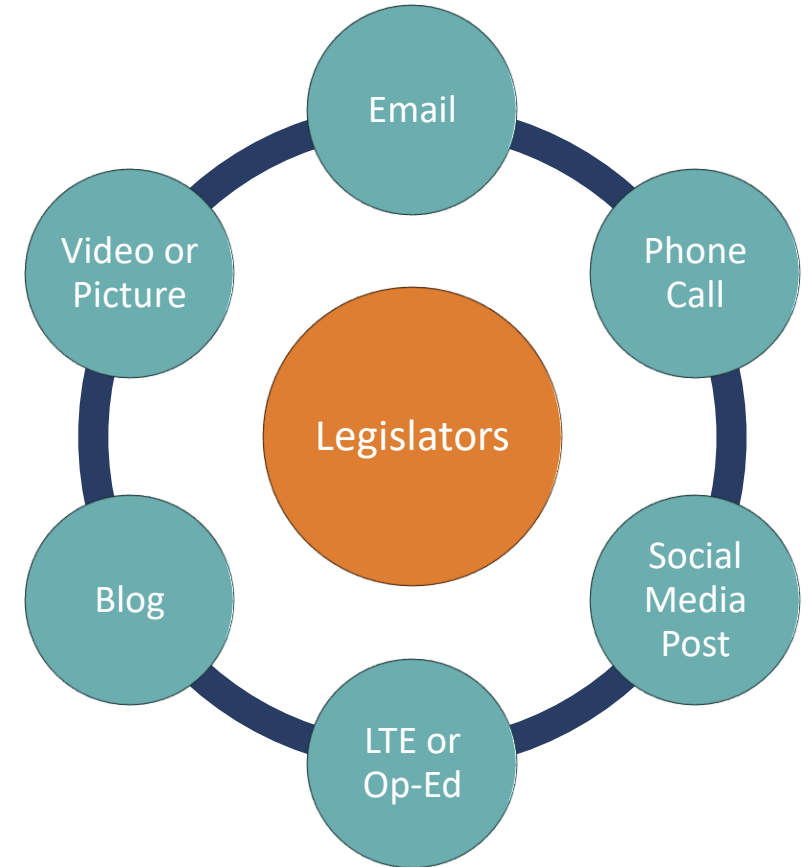
- Tips for sharing your story
- Talking points
- Sample email to policymakers
- Phone script for calling policymakers
- Social media messages and graphics
- Sample Letter to the Editor for providers
- Contact information for key policymakers



Sharing Your Story

A Surround Sound Approach:

- Send an email to your legislators
- Call your legislators
- Post a message on social media – and tag your legislators
- Record a short video or post a picture on social media – and tag your legislators
- Write a blog or newsletter article and share it online and with your network
- Write an LTE or Op-Ed for your local newspaper
- Share a story with us through our [Action Center](#) that we can use in our conversations with policymakers



Key Policymakers

House HHS Appropriations Committee

Rep. Potts, Chair (Davidson)	Rep. Bumgardner (Gaston)
Rep. White, Chair (Johnston)	Rep. Cunningham (Mecklenburg)
Rep. Brisson, Vice Chair (Bladen, Sampson)	Rep. Farmer-Butterfield (Wilson)
Rep. Dobson, Vice Chair (Avery, McDowell, Mitchell)	Rep. Insko (Orange)
Rep. Lambeth, Vice Chair (Forsyth)	Rep. Jarvis (Davidson)
Rep. Alston (Durham)	Rep. Jones (Pitt)
Rep. Baker (Cabarrus)	Rep. Smith (Sampson, Wayne)
Rep. Belk (Mecklenburg)	Rep. Terry (Forsyth)

Senate HHS Appropriations Committee

Sen. Krawiec, Chair (Davie, Forsyth)

Sen. Bryan (Mecklenburg)

Sen. Burgin (Harnett, Johnston, Lee)

Sen. Hise (Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey)

Sen. Lowe (Forsyth)

Sen. Murdock (Durham)

Sen. Perry (Lenoir, Wayne)

Sen. Robinson (Guilford)

Sen. Van Duyn (Buncombe)

Make a Commitment

- Make a commitment to take action this month:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECEcovid19advocacy>

- Let us know what you plan to do and if you need additional resources
- Let us know what you have already done so we can work together on next steps.

We're here to help!

Questions?



Thank you!

www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org

For more information:

Michele Rivest

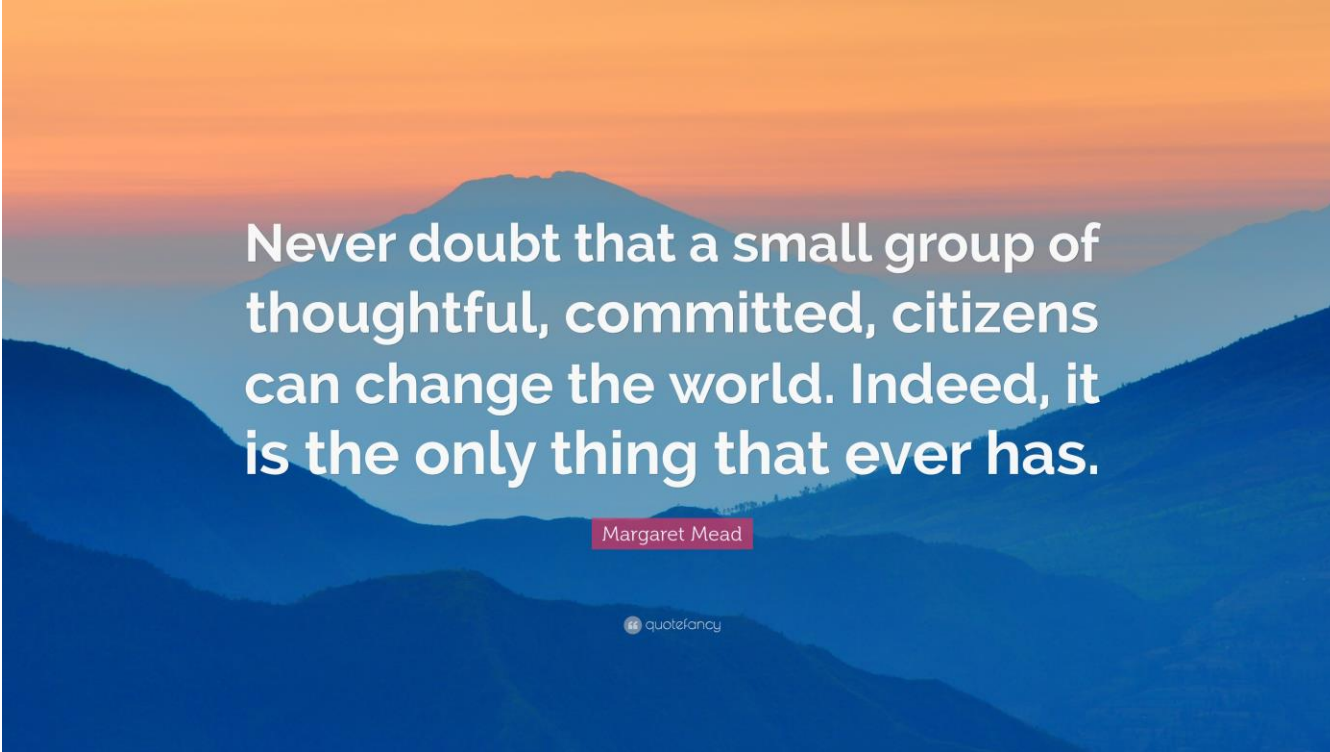
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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

quote fancy