



RANDOLPH COUNTY
Department of Social Services

Beth W. Duncan
Director

Samuel R. Frazier
Board Chair

PRESS RELEASE

“\$4 Million Spent on Non-Smart Start Child Care Subsidy in Randolph County”

Randolph County Department of Social Services (DSS) administers child care subsidy funds for the citizens of Randolph County using a combination of state and federal funds allocated by the North Carolina Division of Child Development. This past fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 Randolph County DSS spent \$4,009,513 in child care subsidy funding assisting Randolph County families. North Carolina currently provides subsidized child care to 75,014 children of which 1,005 live in Randolph County. Ninety-one percent of the children receiving services are because their parents are working

The goal is to serve as many eligible children as possible with the funds available. Based on the population estimates in July 2015, Randolph County had 6,070 children potentially eligible for child care subsidy services. The \$4 million spent on child care last fiscal year only served about 17% of the potentially eligible population in Randolph County. Funding for the current fiscal year that began July 1, 2016 is expected to be approximately \$4.4 million.

The provision of subsidized child care services means that some families with poverty-level incomes can afford child care services which offer a high quality early childhood education while the parent or caregiver continues to work. This critical support increases the chances for children to be healthy and succeed socially and academically while allowing the parents to be more focused on the job and become better employees.

To qualify for the child care subsidy program, a family must meet both situational and financial criteria. Parents are required to pay a portion of the child care cost based on the income that the family earns.

North Carolina implemented various changes in the Child Care Subsidy Program during the past year. Some of the changes addressed market rate increases, parental fees, homelessness, post-secondary education, and provider rate changes. Additional changes this year include a transition to the NC Families Assessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) system that will affect the administrative processes of both the local DSS and child care providers.

If you have questions about the Child Care Subsidy Program, call or visit your local county DSS. In Randolph County call 336-683-8010. You can also visit: <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/> or the state web site at: <http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us>.

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www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/

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