

# Wake County Smart Start Funding Process

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FY 24 – 25 APPLICATION



# Welcome & Introductions

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Name

Organization/Program/Agency

Email



# Housekeeping

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# Introduction to Wake County Smart Start

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- WCSS is part of a network of statewide Smart Start partnerships under the umbrella of the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC)
- The focus for all partnerships is funding evidence-based direct services to benefit children 0-5
- WCSS is comprised of staff from direct service programs as well as admin and activity support staff



# Primary Responsibilities of a Funded Partner

- Deliver approved program to target clients (children, families, child care facilities or community programs), based on approved model from Smart Solutions catalog.
- Collect and report data that measures the progress and/or impact of your proposed program. This includes information about who is receiving services (e.g., race/ethnicity, age, location in the county) and how often.
- Participate in annual financial and program monitoring, including submission of sample materials, to make sure that services are completed as approved.
- Plan and implement additional work in alignment with WCSS strategic framework priority areas.

# Development of WCSS Strategic Framework

Strategic Planning Committee consisted of Board members, WCSS staff, community partners and parents



Guided by and responsive to the lived experience and needs of Wake County's communities

Funded Partners

Unfunded Partners

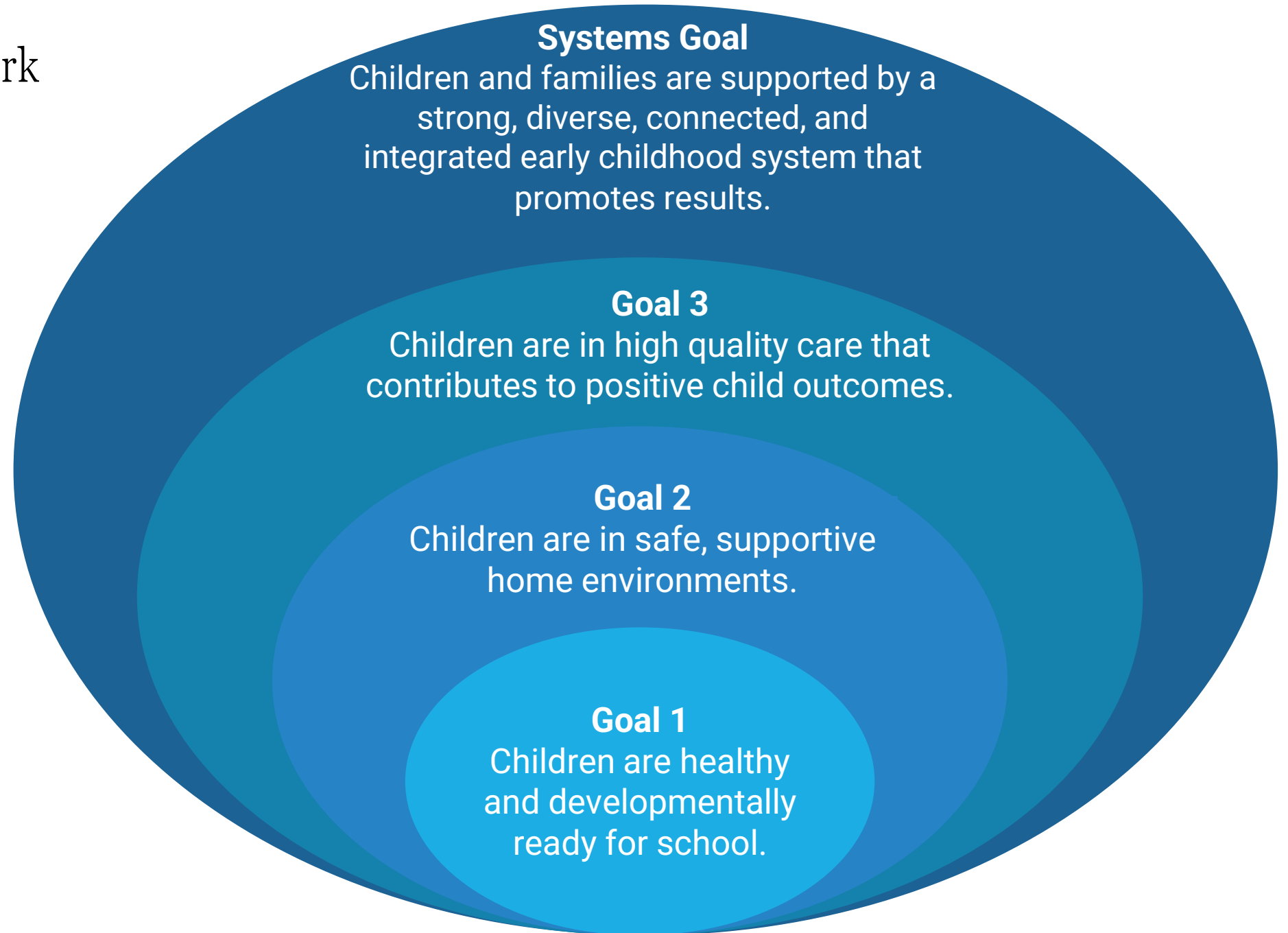
Community  
Members



Centered on WCSS priority areas: racial equity, parent engagement and leadership, and data-informed decision making

# Strategic Framework

## Goal Areas



# Strategic Framework

## SYSTEM GOAL

Children and Families are supported by a strong, diverse, connected, and integrated early childhood system that promotes results.

LEVEL (AGENCY/ PARTNER)	STRATEGIES	FY 23/24 ACTIVITIES	FYS 24/27 ACTIVITIES	MEASURES (OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES)
	<b>Objective: Strengthen <u>family engagement and leadership opportunities</u></b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Year 1: Agency + Partners have a clear and shared understanding of how to engage families and how to share leadership</li> <li>➤ Years 2-4: Agency + Partners integrate family leadership into their agency/program operations*</li> </ul>			
Agency	Include families in determining desired programs/services and results (outputs & outcomes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and share clear guidance on <u>family engagement and leadership</u> plans (composition, roles, engagement strategies)</li> <li>• Revise partner budget line items and contract descriptions to support family compensation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and implementation support</li> <li>• Collect data on impact of implementation support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised RFP Guidance</li> <li>• Revised funding options &amp; additional line items</li> <li>• Agency organization chart includes FTEs to support family leadership</li> </ul>
Partner/ Agency		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop family engagement/leadership plan</li> <li>• Develop timeline for integrating family engagement and leadership in program planning and delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement <u>family engagement and leadership</u> plan</li> <li>• Collect and analyze data on family engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Engagement Leadership Plan (updated annually)</li> <li>• Lessons learned captured in required quarterly reporting</li> <li>• Revised org chart includes family leadership</li> </ul>



# WCSS Funding Allocation Process Overview

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Application completed through online portal: e-Cimpact

Link to portal will be sent when application goes live

Application packet consists of:

- Agency information
- Application questions
- Budget document



# Application Considerations

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- Make the case for your program and why your agency is best suited to implement this particular model with your target population – do not assume that the Allocations Committee is familiar with your previous work
- When responding to application questions, it is appropriate to include both work that has occurred in the past, as well as planned work for the upcoming fiscal year
- WCSS does not have specific expectations or targets for each Strategic Framework key objective – we understand that activities are coming to this work from different places and we want to support our partners in making progress from year to year

# WCSS Funding Allocation Process Overview (cont.)

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|------------|--|
| January 29 | Funding application goes live in online portal     |
| March 4    | Due date for application submission                |
| Late March | Allocations Committee application review           |
| April 24   | WCSS Board votes on funding recommendations        |
| Early May  | Award notices and draft budgets sent to applicants |



# Budget Development for New & Previously Funded Activities

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- Build the budget to meet the objectives of the activity. First consider staffing needed to execute activities.
- Consider budget implications of adding items related to alignment with Strategic Framework key objectives.
- Review Smart Start Cost Principles and Budget Line-Item Descriptions before preparing budget. These are available in the Partner Toolbox at [wakesmartstart.org](http://wakesmartstart.org)

# SS Funding Requirements

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- We anticipate having \$12.8 million available to allocate for FY 2024-2025.
- There is a legislative requirement that \$8.4 million of our allocation be used for Child Care related activities: Child Care Subsidy, NC PreK, and Quality Enhancement/Maintenance activities.
- \$4.4 million dollars can be used for Program Support, Family Support, and Health and Safety activities.

# e-Impact Overview

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# Questions/Wrap Up

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