



Joint Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
Early Education and Family Support Programs Subcommittee
January 28, 2016

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child Development and Early Education



Agenda

- Division Overview
- Subsidized Child Care
- NC Pre-K



What We Do

- Assure a safe and healthy child care environment in licensed child care centers and family child care homes
- Enhance the overall availability and quality of child care
- Promote the education and training requirements of individual child care providers
- Support access to high quality care for eligible families across the state

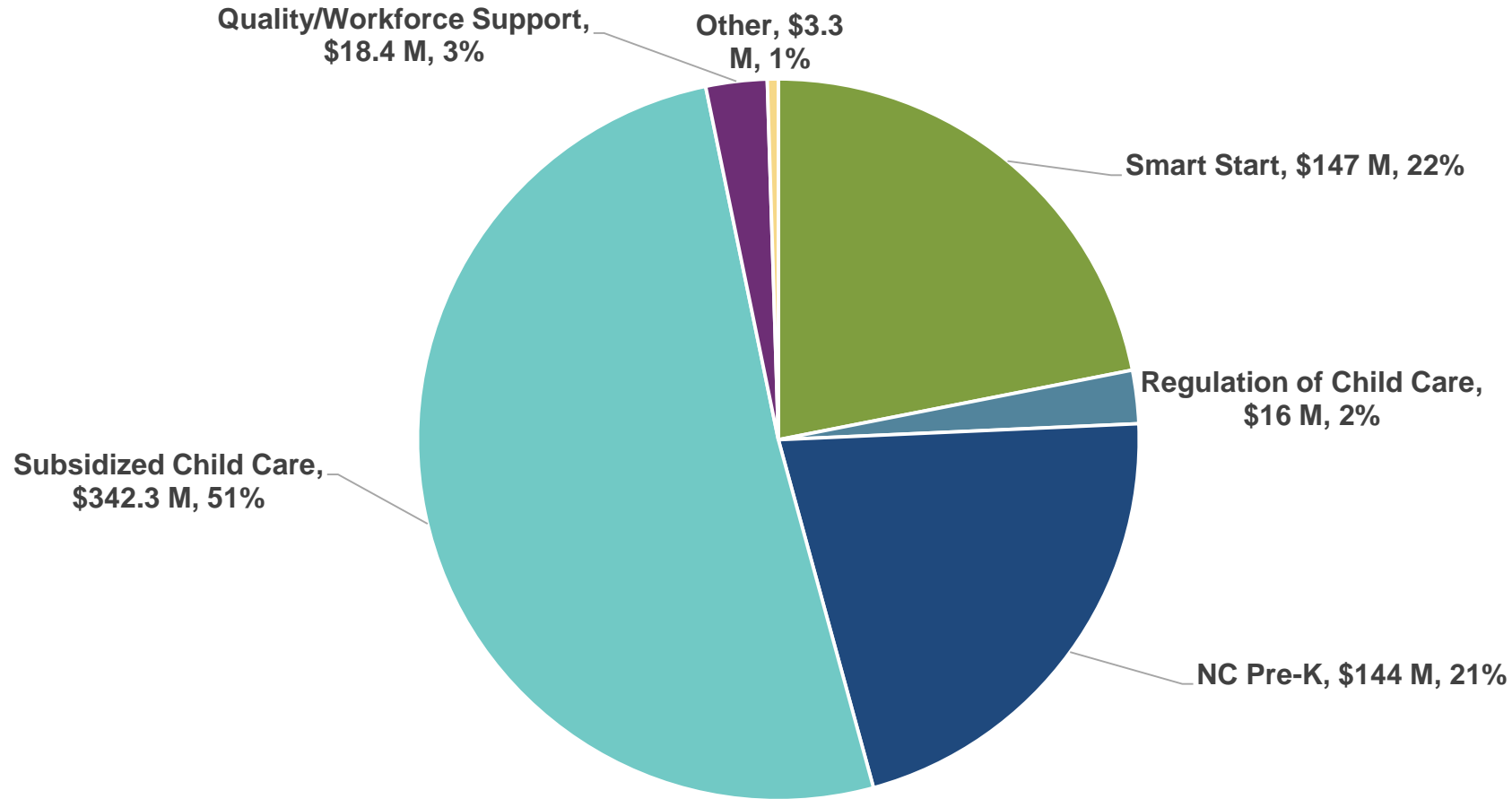


Accomplishments

- Percentage of programs and children enrolled in higher star ratings continuously increasing.
- Enrollment of children receiving child care subsidies in higher star rated programs is increasing.
- NC Pre-K is one of only 5 state pre-k programs that meets all benchmarks for high quality state pre-k standards.



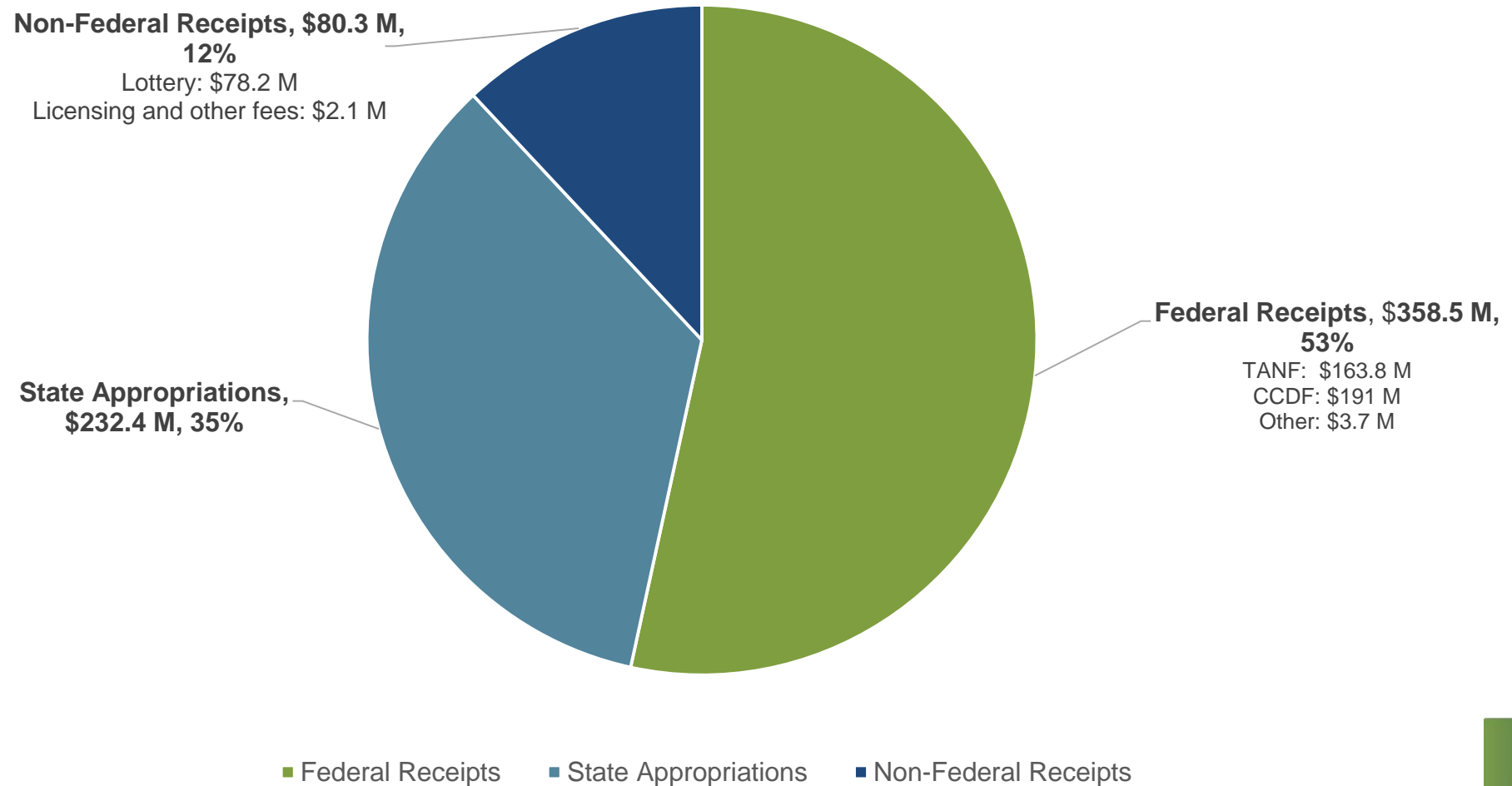
DCDEE Certified Budget SFY 15-16 by Program: \$671 M



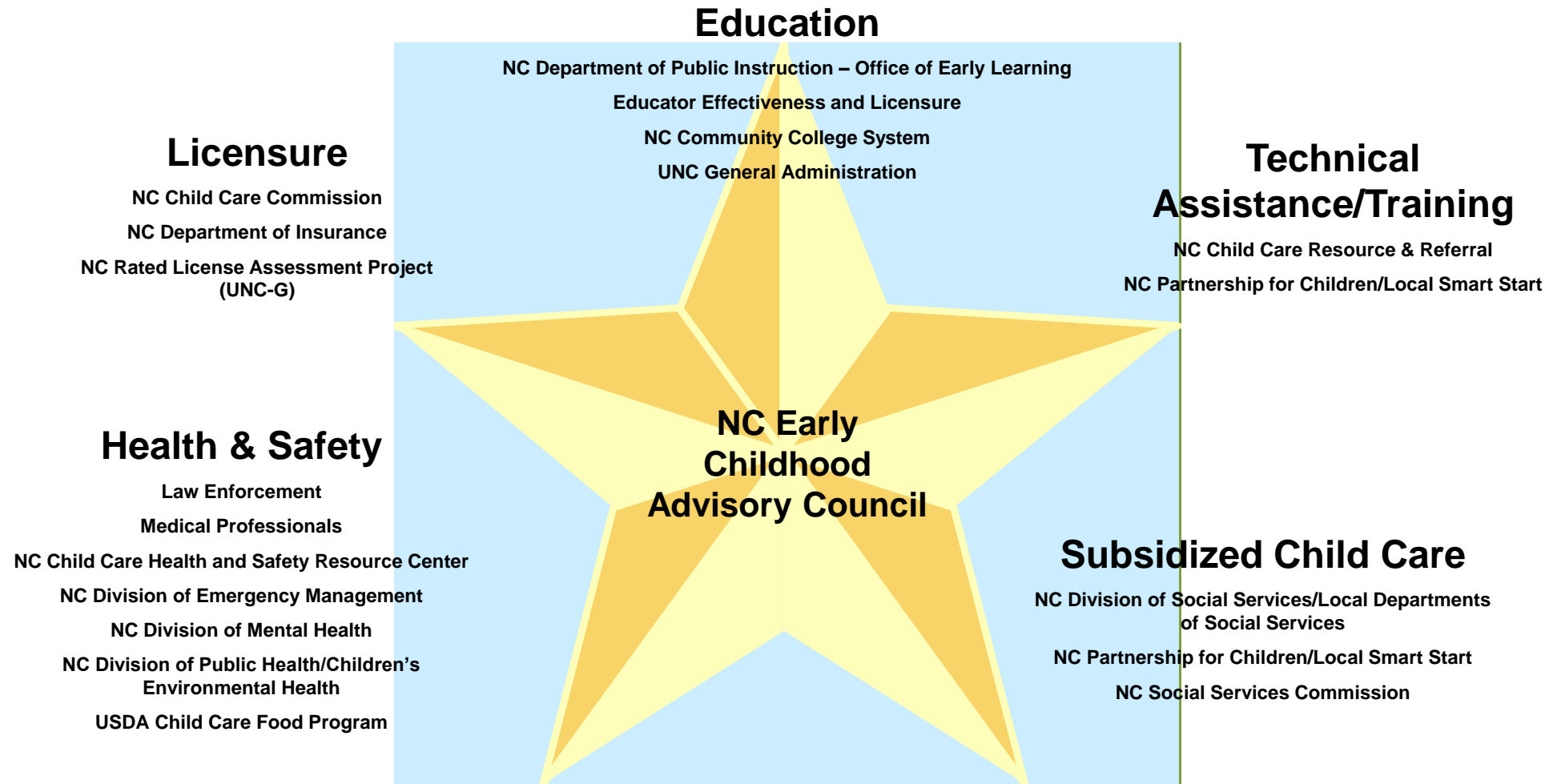
■ Smart Start ■ Regulation of Child Care ■ NC Pre-K ■ Subsidized Child Care ■ Quality/Workforce Support ■ Other



DCDEE Certified Budget SFY 15-16 by Fund Source: \$671 M



DCDEE Collaborations

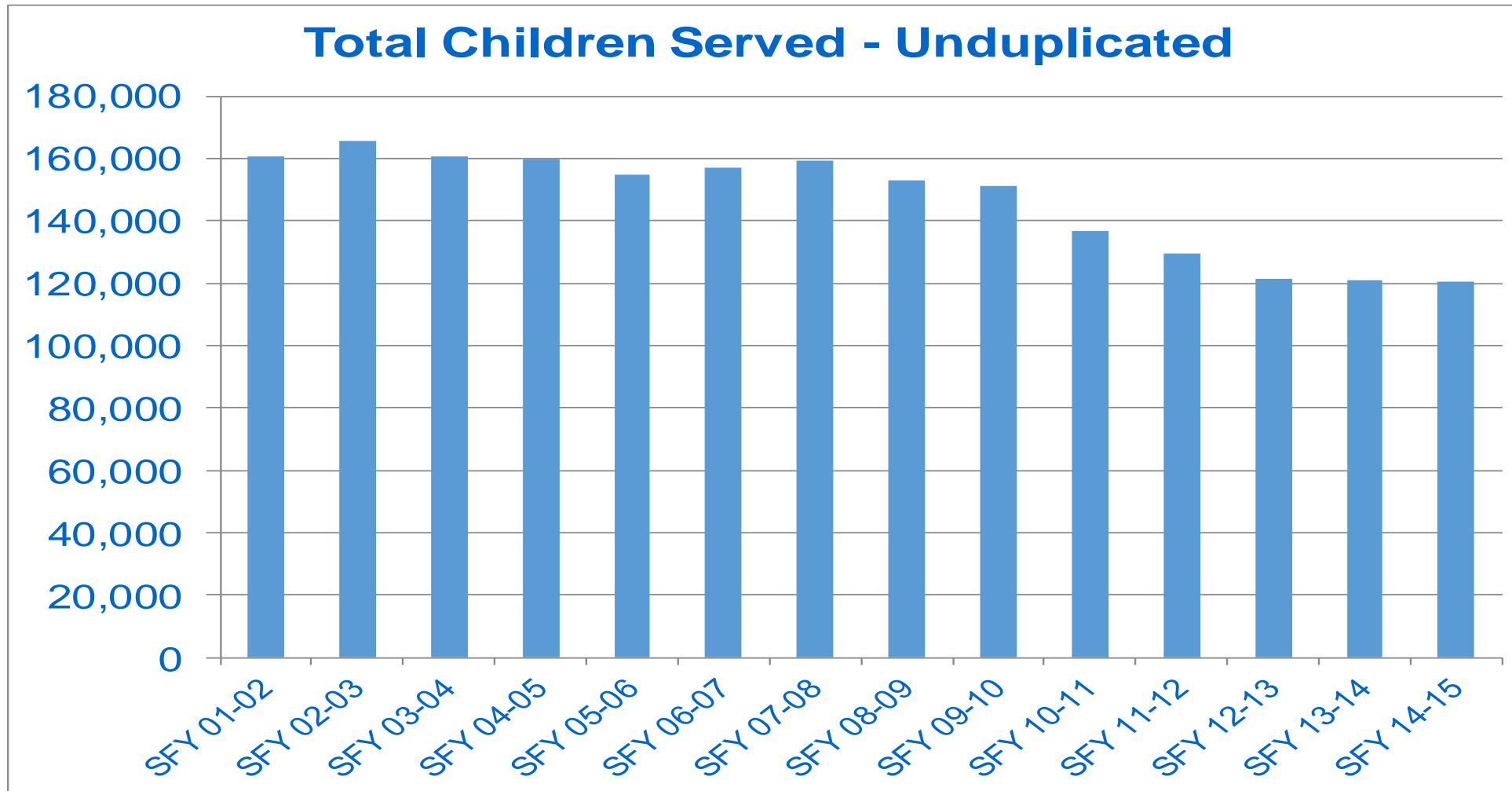


What is Child Care Subsidy?

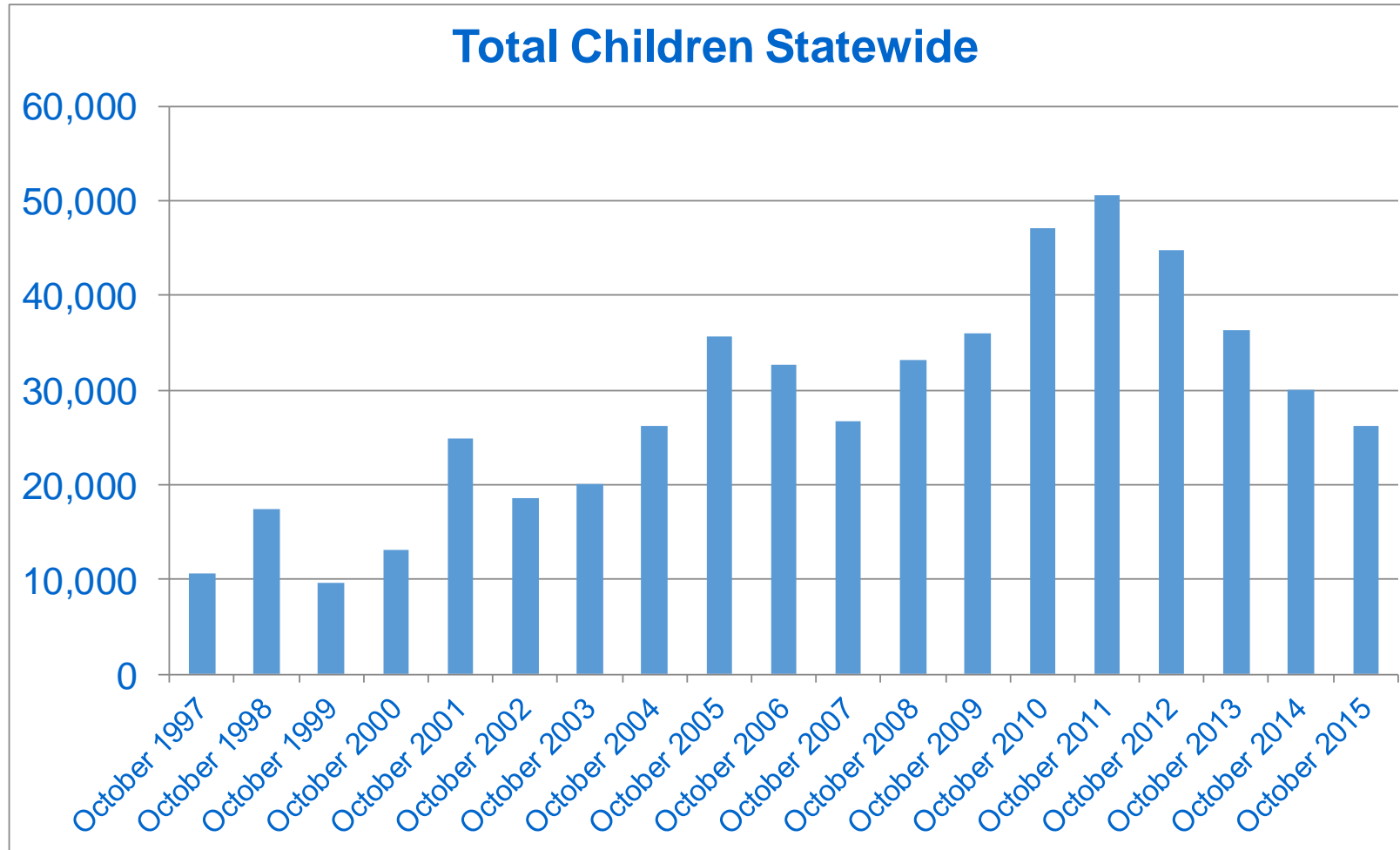
- Provides financial assistance to eligible families so that they may have access to quality child care
- Supports parents' employment or education, children's developmental needs, child protective services and child welfare services
- All providers in the subsidized child care program must meet higher quality standards (3-5 stars)
- Funds allocated to counties and administered primarily through local departments of social services – local priorities



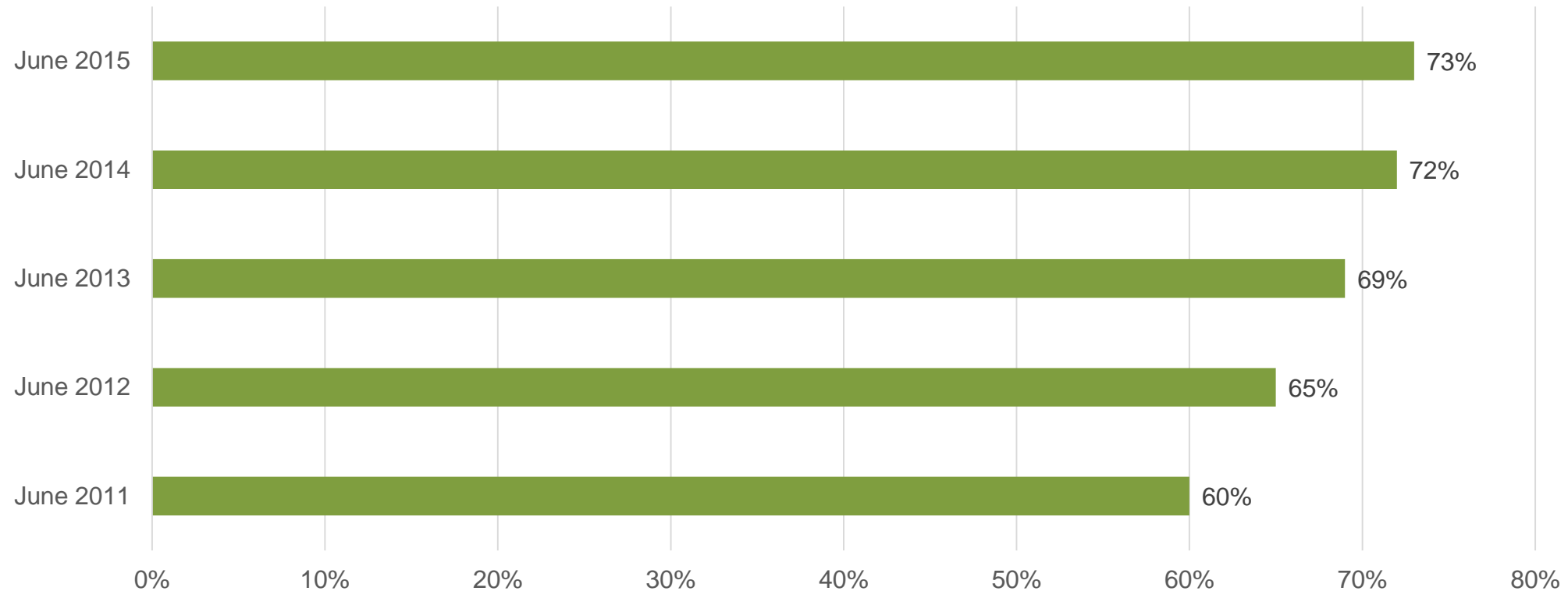
Children Served by SFY



Child Care Subsidy Waiting List



Percentage of All Children Receiving Subsidized Child Care in Programs with 4-5 Star Ratings



2012 legislation limiting subsidy to 3-5 stars, and DHHS promotion and oversight have increased number of children in 4-5 star care



What is Working Well in Subsidy?

- Tiered reimbursement tied to star ratings of facilities participating in the subsidy program provide incentive for quality
- Policy Help Email – DCDEE.Subsidy.Policy.Help@dhhs.nc.gov
- Subsidy Fraud Email – DCDEE.Subsidy.Fraud@dhhs.nc.gov
- On-going compliance monitoring
- Work Support Strategies –
 - Integrated Eligibility Manual
 - Policy Governance Board
 - Economic Programs Committee
 - New Communications Patterns in Development



Issues Impacting the Subsidized Child Care Program

- NC FAST
- CCDF Act of 2014
- Prevention of Overpayments and Fraud
- Staffing
- Reversions and Reallocations



NC Pre-K

- Provides high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for at-risk eligible four-year-old children
- Seeks to enhance kindergarten readiness and success in school
- Program administered by a mix of public and private agencies
- Administered via a local Pre-K Committee governance structure

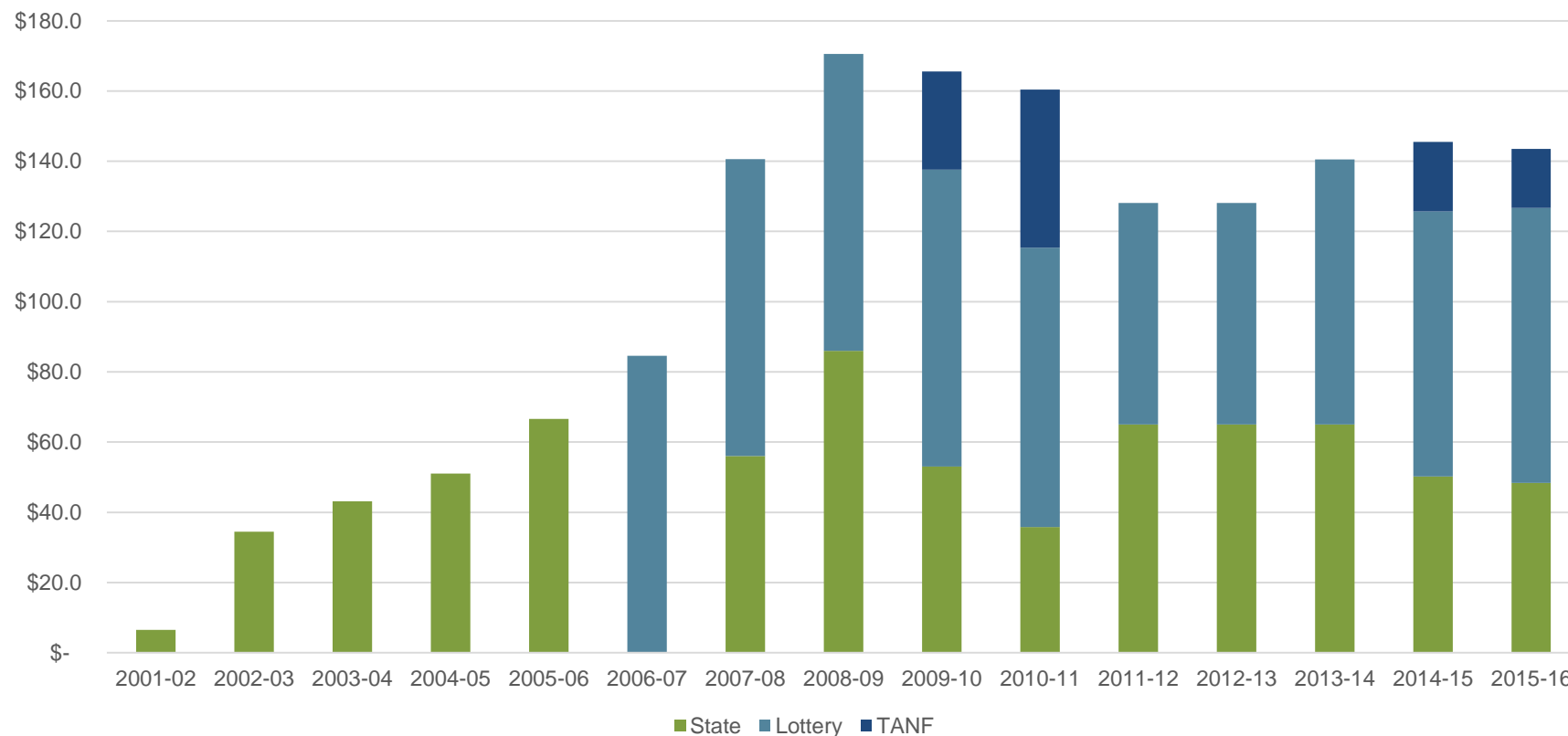


Strengths

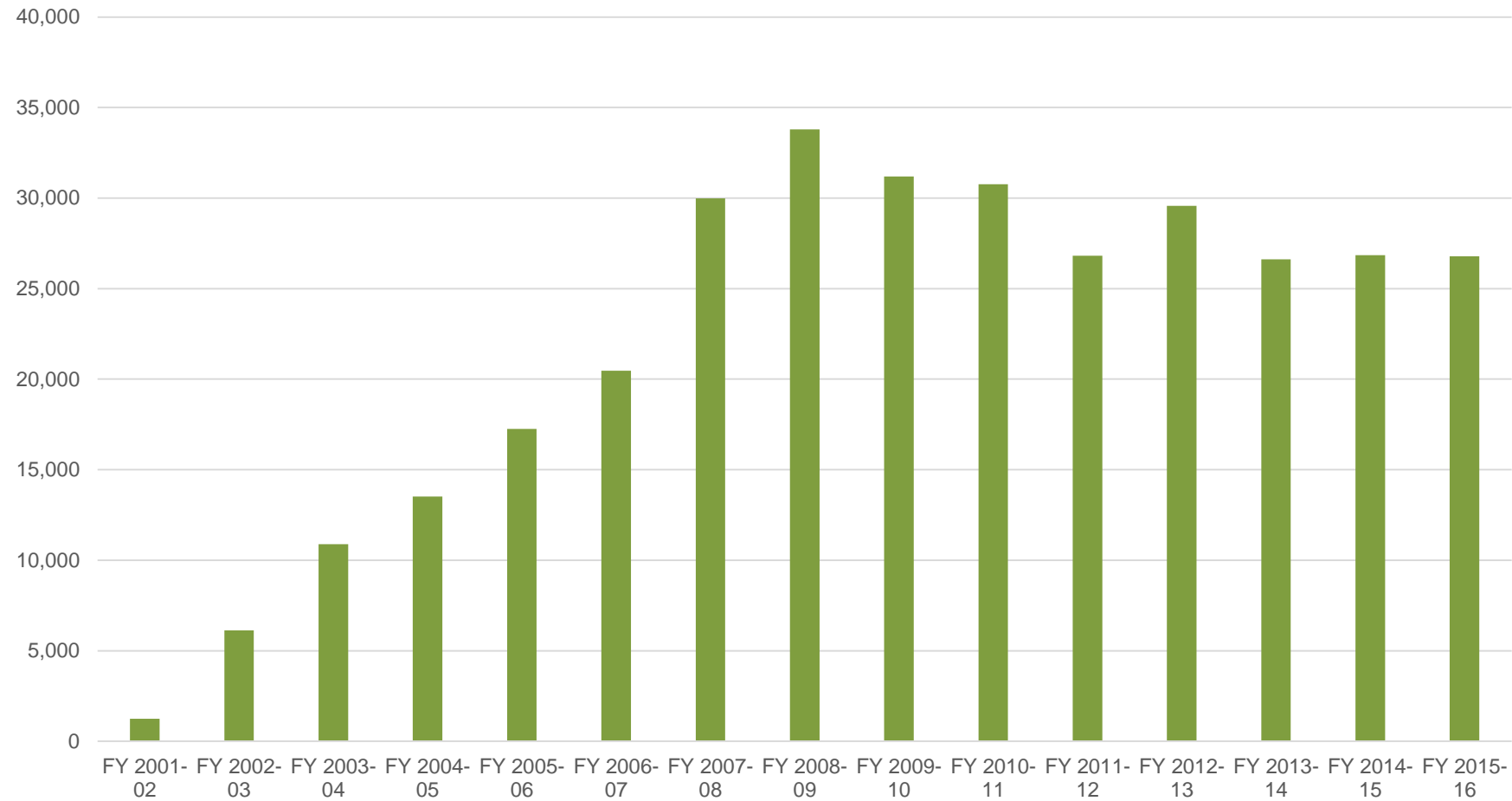
- Administration & Governance
- Eligibility
- Funding
- Contracting
- Mixed Delivery
- Quality: Structural and Process
- Performance and Evaluation of Impact



More at Four/NC Pre-K Certified Budget



Children Served in More at Four/NC Pre-K



Key Program Impacts

- Longitudinal studies have demonstrated beneficial effects of NC Pre-K in all domains of learning during pre-k and continuing into kindergarten.
- Children who have lower level of English language proficiency make gains at an even faster rate than other children.
- Children who participated in NC Pre-K improved in language, literacy and math skills at entry into kindergarten.
- Reduced achievement gap for children from lower income families who participated in pre-k (end of 3rd grade higher math and reading EOG scores).



Issues Impacting the NC Pre-K Program

- Limited support for children with unique behavioral/emotional needs
- Reduced ability for local resources to be invested
- Allocation and payment structure
- Timing of receiving lottery receipts



Questions