



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

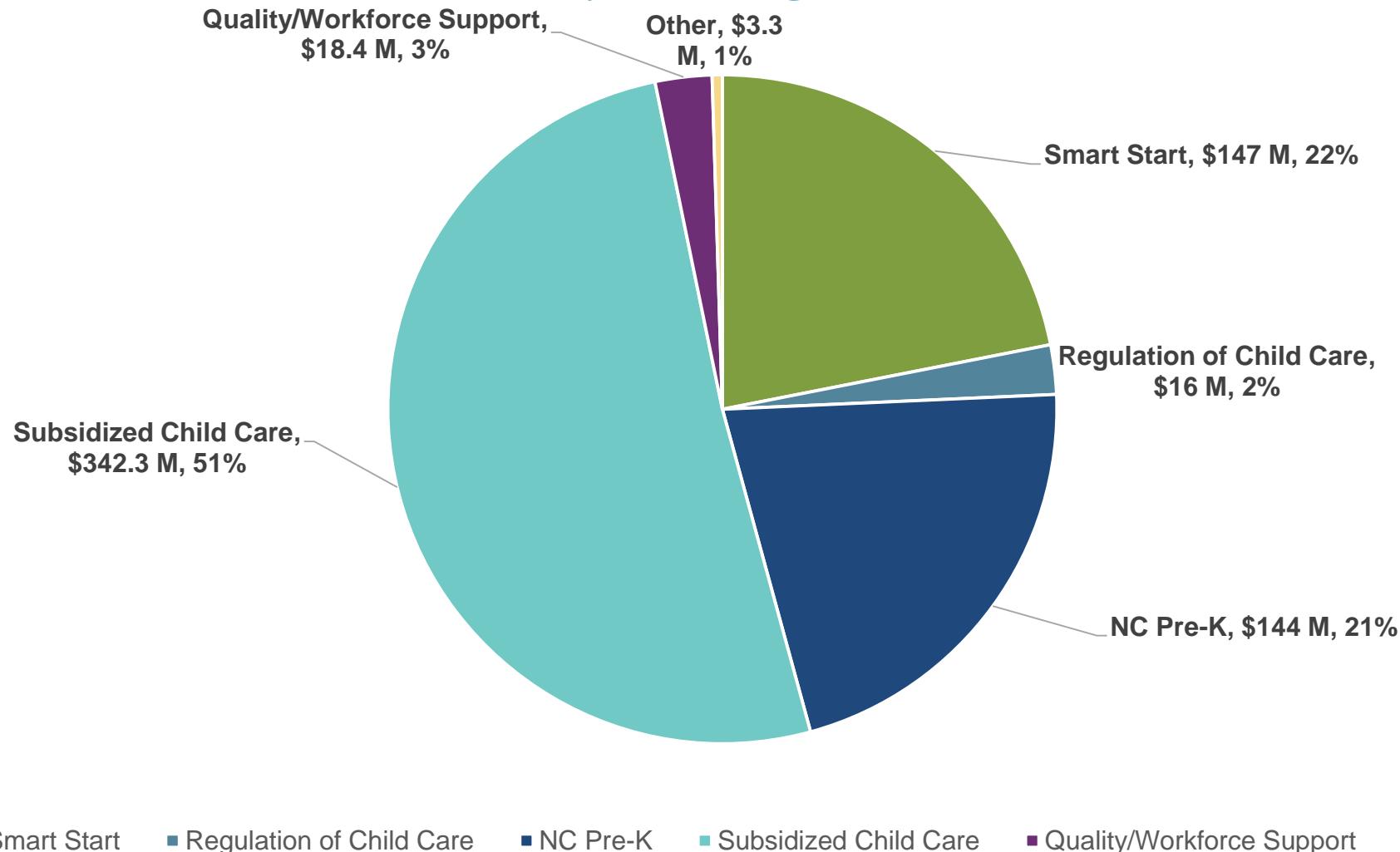


Accomplishments

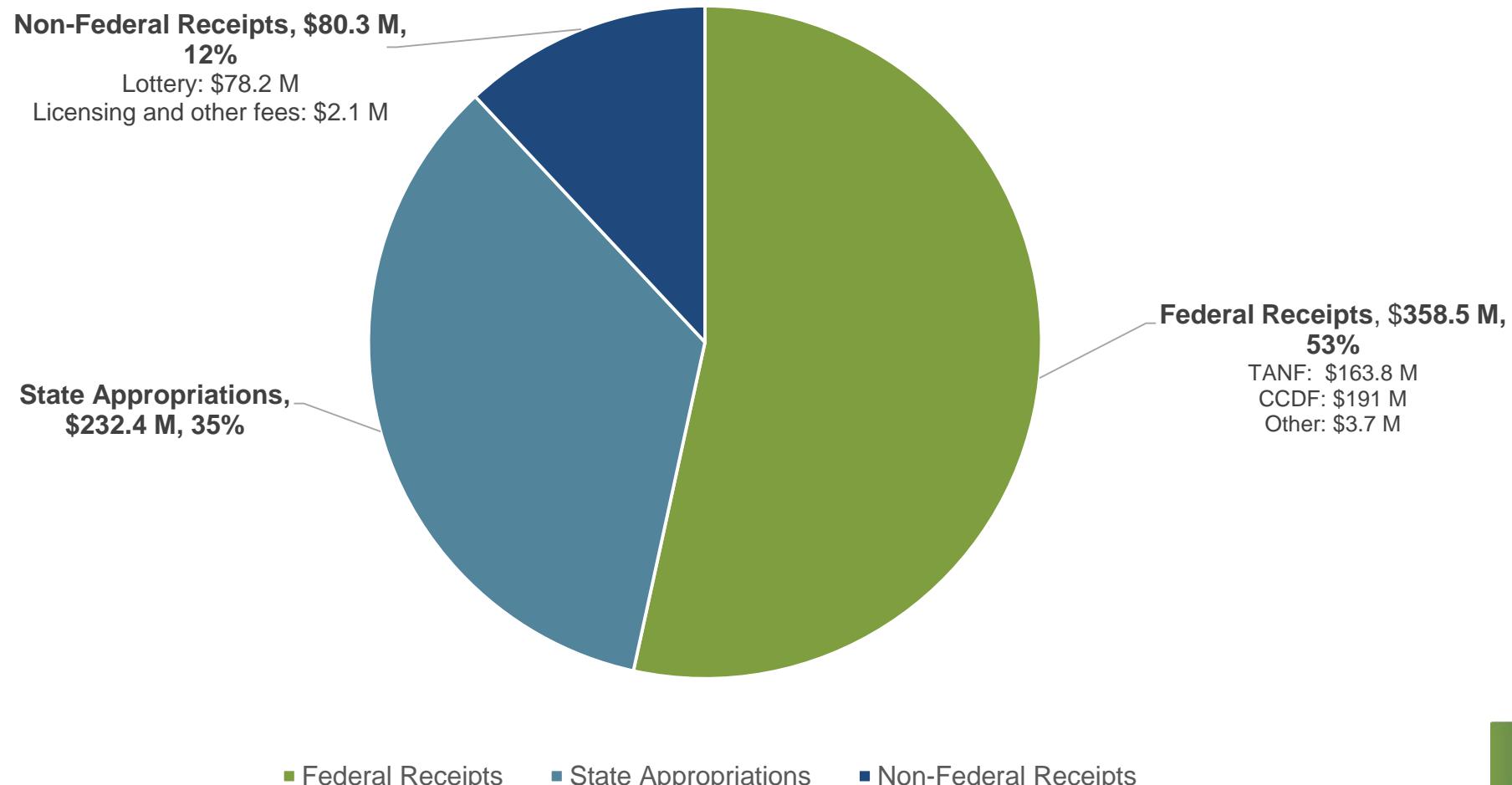
- Percentage of programs and children enrolled in higher star ratings continuously increasing.
- Enrollment of children receiving child care subsidies in higher star rated programs is increasing.
- NC Pre-K is one of only 5 state pre-k programs that meets all benchmarks for high quality state pre-k standards.



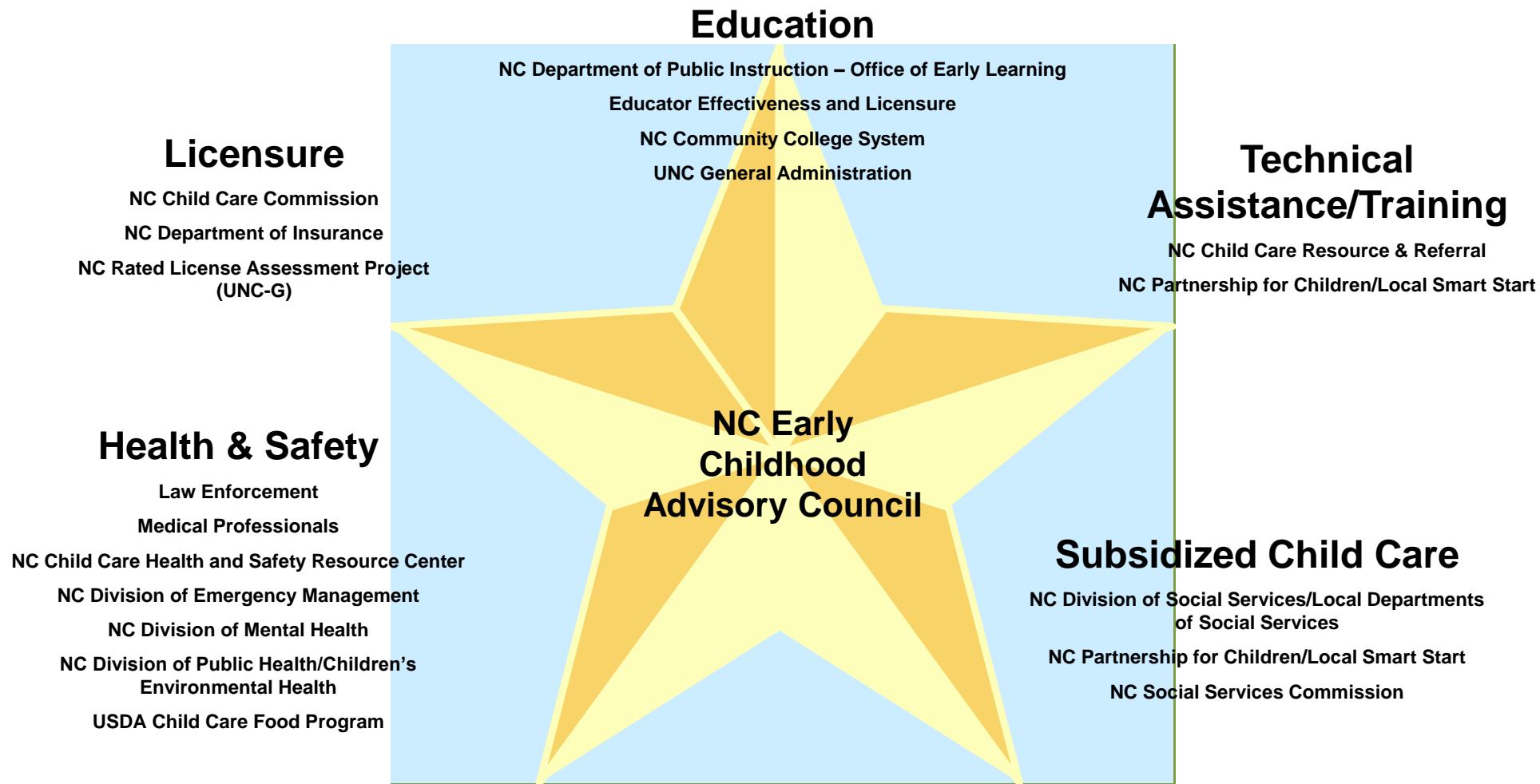
DCDEE Certified Budget SFY 15-16 by Program: \$671 M



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



DCDEE Collaborations

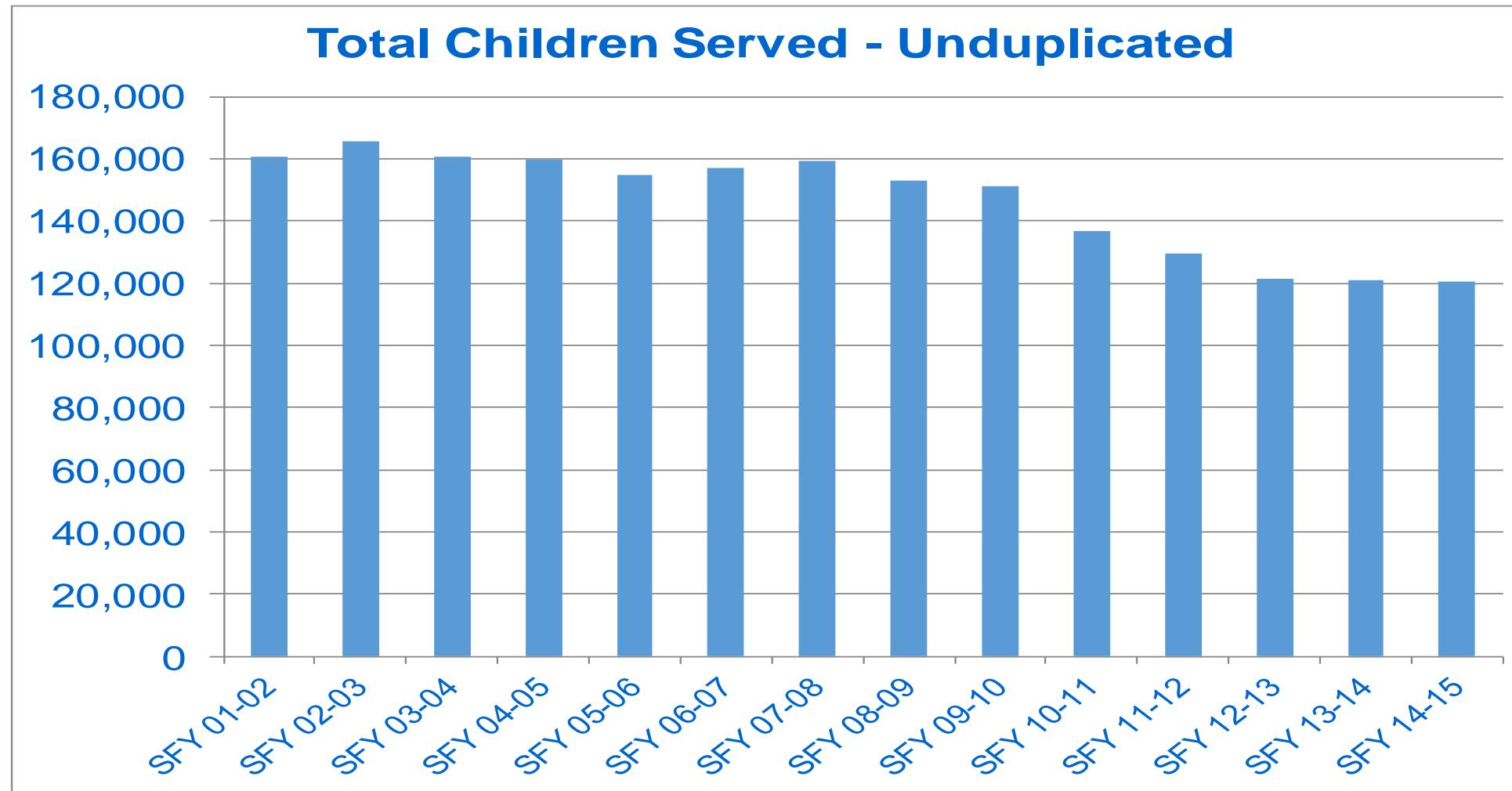


What is Child Care Subsidy?

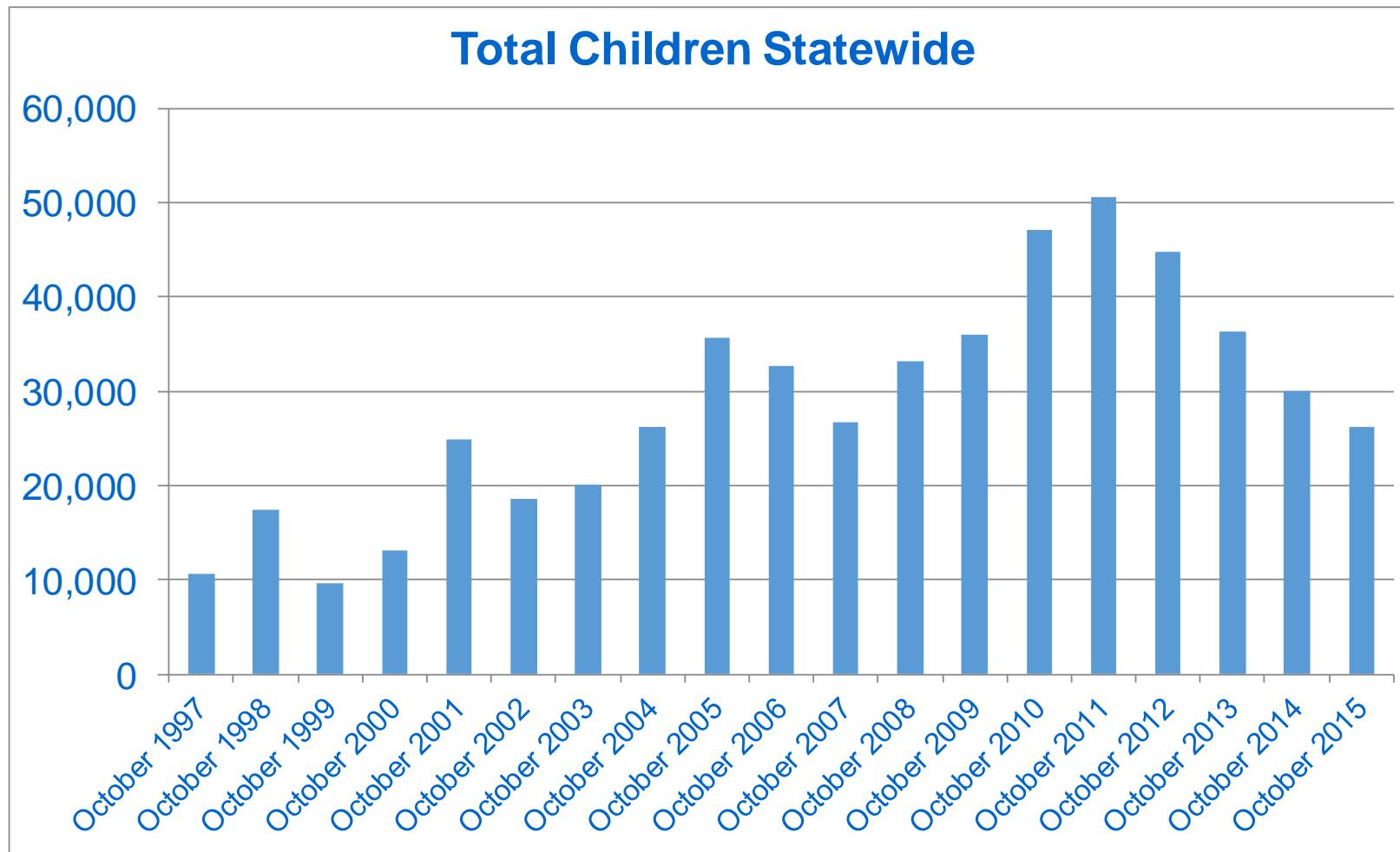
- Provides financial assistance to eligible families so that they may have access to quality child care
- Supports parents' employment or education, children's developmental needs, child protective services and child welfare services
- All providers in the subsidized child care program must meet higher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



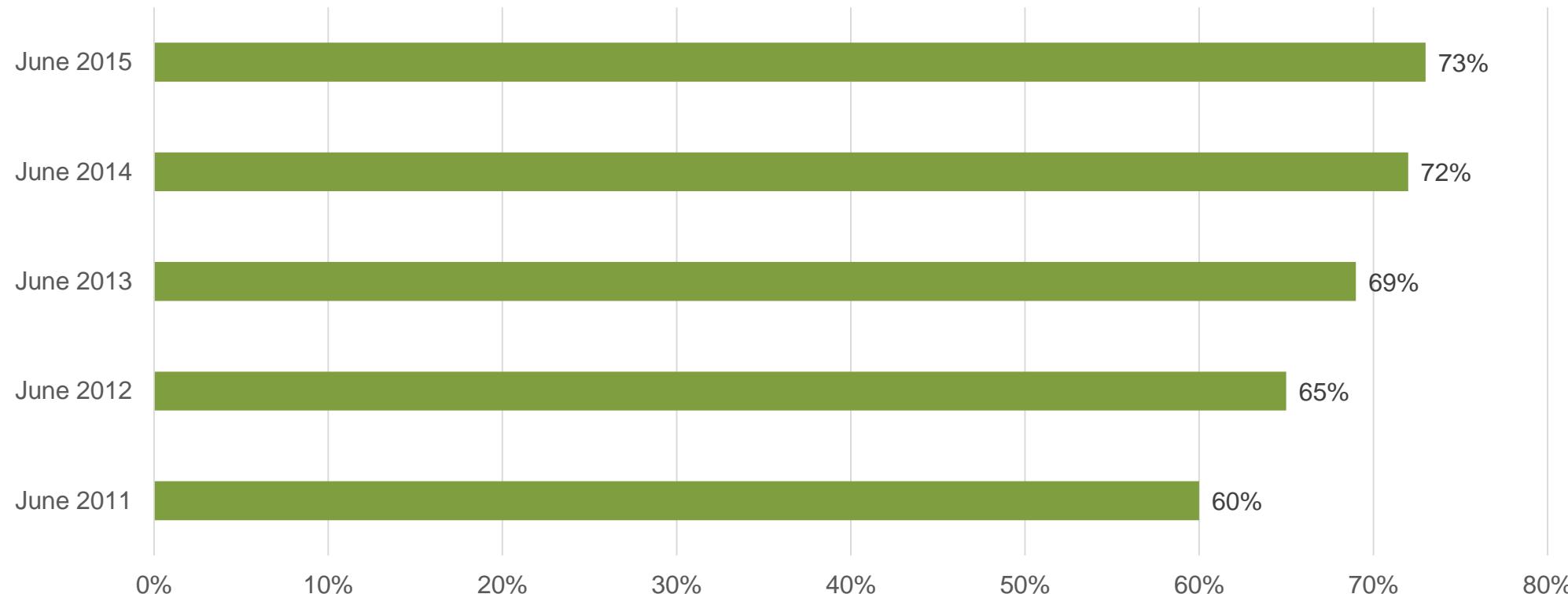
Children Served by SFY



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

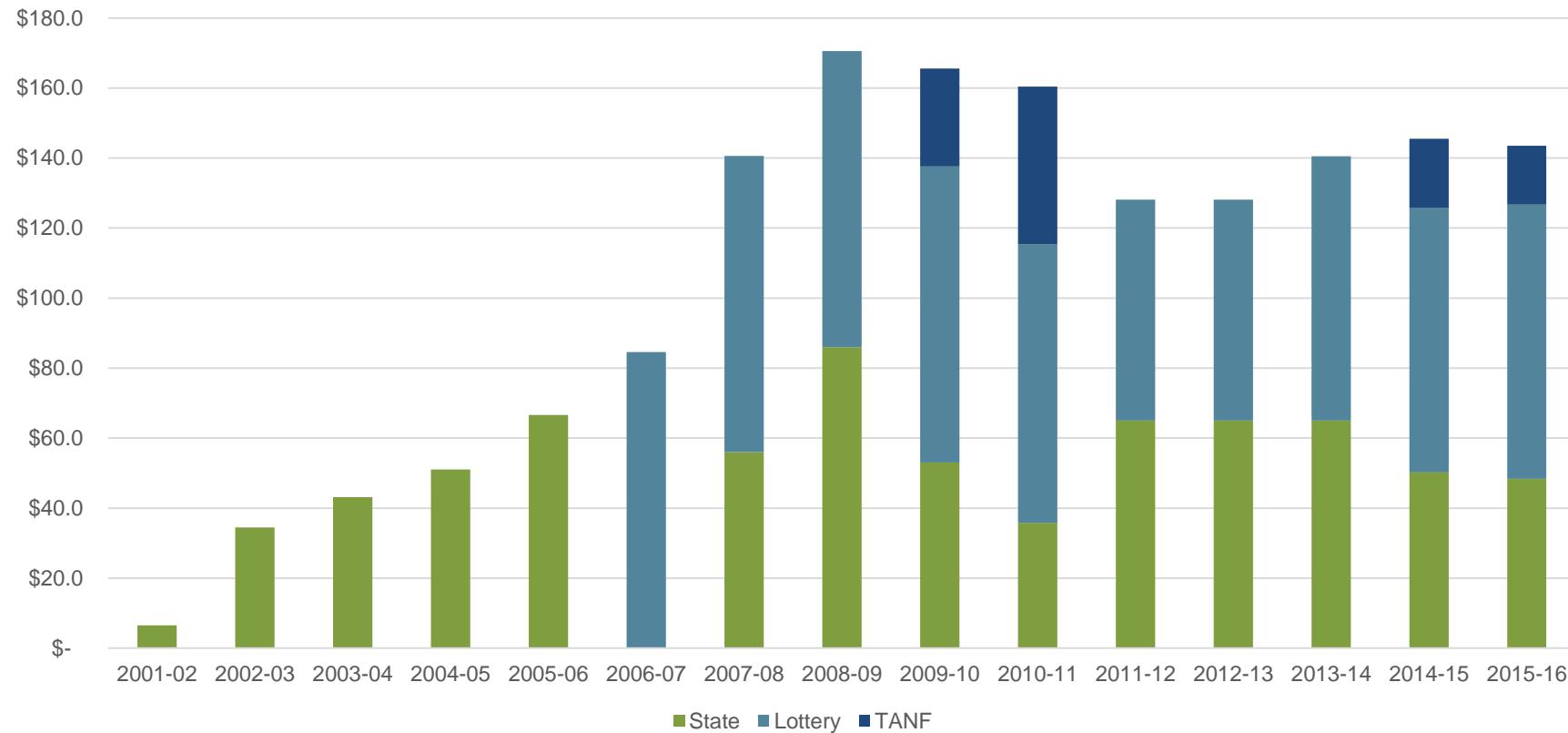


Strengths

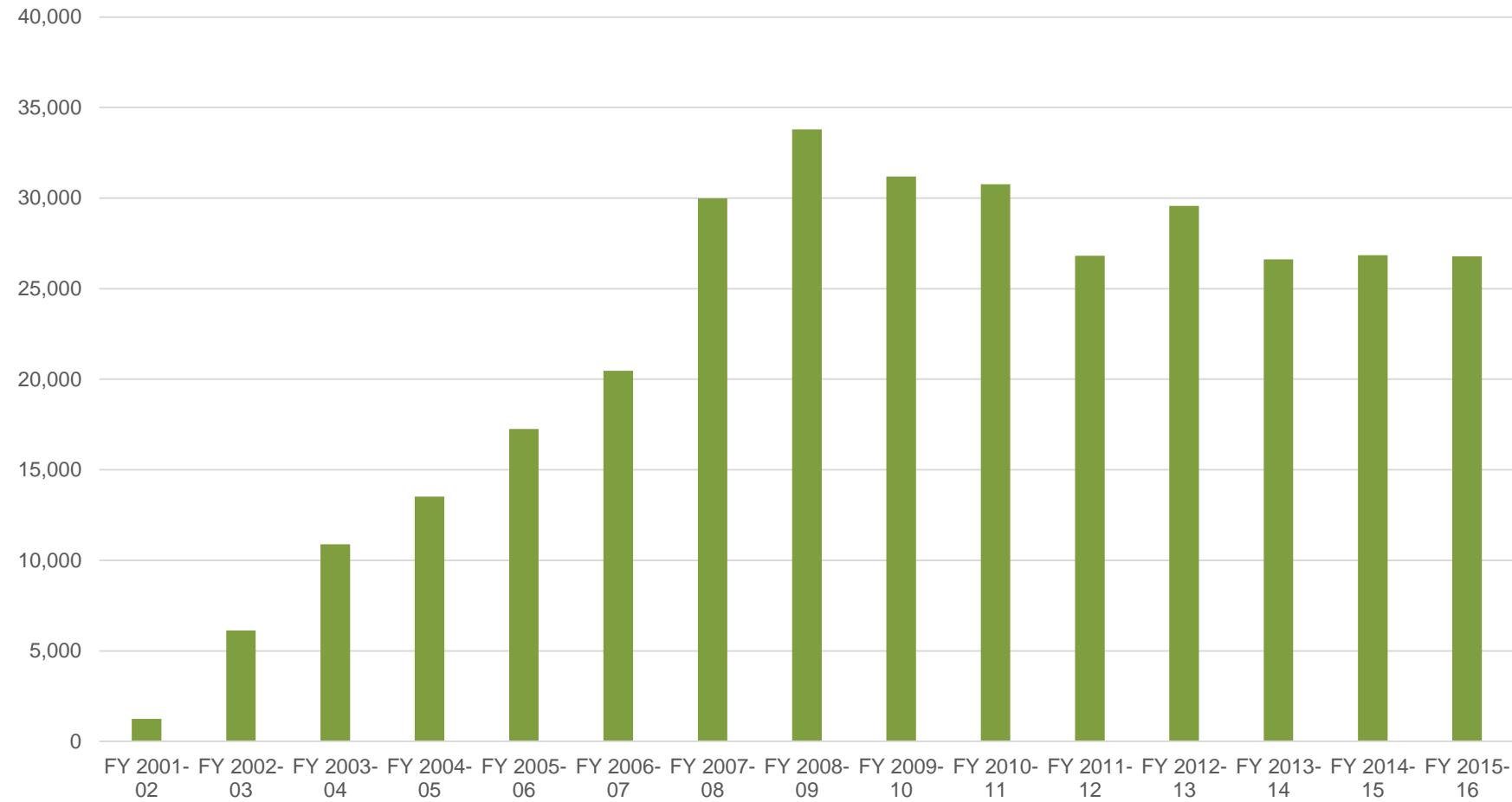
- Administration & Governance
- Eligibility
- Funding
- Contracting
- Mixed Delivery
- Quality: Structural and Process
- Performance and Evaluation of Impact



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

