



**NC Child Care Grant Program for Community College
Students**

**Annual Report to the
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

Submitted by The State Board of Community Colleges

As Required by GS 115D-40.5 Section 6.4

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SUMMARY

The North Carolina Child Care Grant program has proven to be a critical resource for student-parents by helping them persist in their college education by addressing one of the most significant barriers to their academic success – access to affordable childcare. The success of the program highlights the vital need for financial assistance in this area, emphasizing the importance of continued support for student-parents in higher education.

Since 1993, the North Carolina General Assembly has approved appropriation of need-based aid for community college students through the North Carolina Community College Child Care Grant. These funds are added to the Community College budget for childcare services to help meet the needs of students enrolled at a community college. The North Carolina Community College System administers the NC Child Care Grant Program to assist student-parents with the financial responsibilities for childcare expenses so they may stay enrolled and accomplish their educational goals. Childcare coordinators and financial aid officers at each college collaborate with local social services agencies to assess childcare needs of student-parents to determine eligibility for funding and availability to qualified students.

BACKGROUND

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the North Carolina General Assembly allocated \$3,038,215 to support childcare services for student-parents enrolled in community colleges across the state. The NC Child Care Grant is designed to assist student-parents with the cost of childcare, ensuring that they have the necessary support to continue their education without the added burden of securing care for their children.

For the purposes of the NC Child Care Grant, eligible childcare providers include a range of options such as licensed daycare centers, individual childcare providers, unlicensed providers, parents of the student, and personal nannies. Childcare providers may also include before and after school and summer programs, all granting student-parents flexibility in choosing childcare services that best fit their needs.

In compliance with 115D-40.5, section 6.4, the North Carolina Community College System provides this report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the administration of the North Carolina Community College Child Care Grant Program for the prior fiscal year.

This report includes self-reported data from each community college and captures key metrics such as:

- (1) The number of applications received for grants from the program.
- (2) The average award received by applicant.
- (3) The number of applications approved for funding.
- (4) The total amount of grant funds awarded.
- (5) The range of grant award amounts disbursed to individual students for childcare expenses.
- (6) The types of childcare services utilized by students receiving grant funds, including before-school and after-school care.

This comprehensive reporting ensures transparency in the administration of the program and helps inform future decisions related to the funding and expansion of childcare support for student-parents attending NC community colleges.

FY 2023-24 COLLEGE REPORT

This report includes a (1) allocation of authorized funds to each college, (2) the total amount awarded to student-parents, (3) the unexpended amount, (4) the number of students awarded grants and (5) the average amount awarded to students.

Community Colleges	FY 2023-24 Allocation	Total Awarded	Unexpended Funds	# Students Awarded	Average Award
Alamance CC	\$55,209	\$40,629.00	\$14,580.00	8	\$5,078.63
Asheville-Buncombe TCC	\$70,800	\$46,051.00	\$24,749.00	21	\$2,192.90
Beaufort CCC	\$35,527	\$34,750.00	\$777.00	12	\$2,895.83
Bladen CC	\$30,936	\$30,936.00	\$0.00	11	\$2,812.36
Blue Ridge CC	\$42,584	\$38,726.00	\$3,858.00	12	\$3,227.17
Brunswick CC	\$35,740	\$35,740.00	\$0.00	7	\$5,105.71
Caldwell CC and TI	\$52,850	\$52,850.00	\$0.00	24	\$2,202.08
Cape Fear CC	\$101,047	\$66,516.52	\$34,530.48	13	\$5,116.66
Carteret CC	\$35,198	\$35,198.00	\$0.00	7	\$5,028.29
Catawba Valley CC	\$58,260	\$25,760.54	\$32,499.46	9	\$3,611.05
Central Carolina CC	\$64,498	\$33,822.71	\$30,675.29	8	\$4,227.84
Central Piedmont CC	\$181,817	\$181,817.00	\$0.00	29	\$6,269.55
Cleveland CC	\$46,208	\$15,355.84	\$30,852.16	5	\$3,071.17
Coastal Carolina CC	\$54,519	\$37,574.95	\$16,944.05	18	\$2,087.50
College of the Albemarle	\$40,958	\$7,852.00	\$33,106.00	4	\$1,963.00
Craven CC	\$44,752	\$41,494.00	\$3,258.00	14	\$2,963.86
Davidson-Davie CC	\$54,689	\$50,119.00	\$4,570.00	15	\$3,341.27
Durham TCC	\$60,066	\$21,882.39	\$38,183.61	11	\$1,989.31
Edgecombe CC	\$34,273	\$26,373.64	\$7,889.36	8	\$3,296.71
Fayetteville TCC	\$116,233	\$100,310.42	\$15,922.58	31	\$3,235.82
Forsyth TCC	\$94,957	\$83,608.44	\$11,348.56	35	\$2,388.81
Gaston College	\$66,092	\$20,851.01	\$45,240.99	6	\$3,475.17
Guilford TCC	\$109,464	\$75,974.00	\$33,490.00	22	\$3,453.36
Halifax CC	\$28,587	\$28,587.00	\$0.00	7	\$4,083.86
Haywood CC	\$31,191	\$10,901.17	\$20,289.83	8	\$1,325.15
Isothermal CC	\$38,343	\$32,097.00	\$6,246.00	9	\$3,566.33
James Sprunt CC	\$32,445	\$32,445.00	\$0.00	27	\$1,201.67
Johnston CC	\$56,463	\$42,069.00	\$14,394.00	10	\$4,206.90
Lenoir CC	\$40,873	\$21,118.45	\$19,754.55	8	\$2,639.81
Martin CC	\$26,706	\$15,501.56	\$11,204.44	6	\$2,583.59

Mayland CC	\$26,717	\$14,692.00	\$12,025.00	6	\$2,448.67
McDowell TCC	\$30,054	\$30,054.00	\$0.00	26	\$1,155.92
Mitchell CC	\$45,560	\$13,915.00	\$31,645.00	5	\$2,783.00
Montgomery CC	\$28,662	\$17,071.00	\$11,591.00	7	\$2,438.71
Nash CC	\$42,392	\$20,144.46	\$22,247.54	10	\$2,014.45
Pamlico CC	\$23,071	\$2,849.05	\$20,221.95	2	\$1,424.53
Piedmont CC	\$30,521	\$30,521.00	\$0.00	11	\$2,774.64
Pitt CC	\$84,956	\$89,956.00	\$0.00	23	\$3,911.13
Randolph CC	\$42,414	\$27,020.31	\$15,393.69	11	\$2,456.39
Richmond CC	\$38,609	\$38,609.00	\$0.00	16	\$2,413.00
Roanoke-Chowan CC	\$24,804	\$24,804.00	\$0.00	7	\$3,543.43
Robeson CC	\$38,864	\$38,864.00	\$0.00	13	\$2,989.54
Rockingham CC	\$33,572	\$17,776.00	\$15,796.00	7	\$2,539.43
Rowan-Cabarrus CC	\$71,948	\$71,527.00	\$421.00	13	\$5,502.08
Sampson CC	\$36,218	\$35,476.99	\$741.01	15	\$2,365.13
Sandhills CC	\$53,392	\$12,663.00	\$40,729.00	3	\$4,221.00
South Piedmont CC	\$43,147	\$43,147.00	\$0.00	16	\$2,696.69
Southeastern CC	\$32,519	\$21,925.00	\$10,594.00	4	\$5,481.25
Southwestern CC	\$39,661	\$14,685.00	\$24,976.00	2	\$7,342.50
Stanly CC	\$39,406	\$39,318.25	\$87.75	9	\$4,368.69
Surry CC	\$44,189	\$44,189.00	\$0.00	11	\$4,017.18
Tri-County CC	\$29,225	\$19,479.25	\$9,745.75	9	\$2,164.36
Vance-Granville CC	\$43,785	\$43,686.75	\$98.25	20	\$2,184.34
Wake TCC	\$212,913	\$212,372.42	\$540.58	35	\$6,067.78
Wayne CC	\$47,621	\$34,976.50	\$12,644.50	10	\$3,497.65
Western Piedmont CC	\$36,462	\$36,462.00	\$0.00	16	\$2,278.88
Wilkes CC	\$41,744	\$41,744.00	\$0.00	23	\$1,814.96
Wilson CC	\$34,504	\$26,093.16	\$8,410.84	7	\$3,727.59
Total	\$3,038,215	\$2,350,932.78	\$692,272.22	742	\$3,263.18

FY 2023-24 CHILD CARE GRANT FUND UTILIZATION AND IMPACT

In FY 2023-24, \$2,350,932.78 was distributed directly to approved childcare providers, which included individuals, as well as before-school and after-school service providers.

During the year, colleges reported receiving a total of 1497 applications for childcare assistance. From the application pool, at least 742 students received financial support through the NC Child Care Grant program.

17 of the 58 colleges fully expended their allocated funds for the fiscal year. To address the funding shortfalls and assist additional students, many colleges leveraged supplementary resources including institutional funds such as Student Support Services Grant, local college Foundation office, state funding from programs like County Partnership for Children, Department of Health and Human Services, NC Pre-

K, Project Success, Underserved Outreach and Finish Line Grants to support student-parents in need of childcare assistance.

Conclusion

As more community colleges recognize the challenges faced by student-parents, many are actively reassessing their practices and reviewing their policies to better serve this population. Institutions are increasingly focused on finding innovative solutions to remove barriers, particularly those related to childcare, in order to improve retention and completion rates for students with parental responsibilities.

Continued investment in this program is essential for ensuring student-parents have the necessary resources to balance their educational goals and parental responsibilities. The North Carolina Childcare Grant program plays a pivotal role in enabling student-parents to remain in college. Ongoing efforts by community colleges to enhance support for childcare needs are critical to promoting equitable access to higher education for all students.