



Pre-K 2-Year Model Cohort Opportunity: Provider Q&A April 27

Some Background:

The Pre-K Priority

- A local coalition working to educate, engage, and mobilize the public and secure the commitment of civic leaders to support the establishment of a high-quality system of Pre-K programs available to all four-year-olds in Forsyth County.
- Convened by Family Services in 2014; now with more than 80 individuals involved representing over 30 early childhood education organizations, public agencies, philanthropic partners, and parents.



The Goal: Affordable, High-Quality Pre-K

- Access for all families who want to enroll their child
- Choice of programs that are included in the community
 - Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools
 - Head Start
 - Community-based centers including private child care centers
- High-quality, uniform standards will
 - Improve the quality of current programs for families and teachers
 - Support current programs to increase enrollment
 - Help establish new high-quality programs



2022

ARPA Funding (American Rescue Plan Act)

Forsyth County & City of Winston-Salem

- \$3.7 million from the county toward establishing the foundation of a high-quality Pre-K system
- \$350,000 from the City of Winston-Salem
- High-quality services and supports for the model cohort of 30 existing classrooms; impacts 540 children and their families, 60 teachers, and various sites across the Pre-K landscape
- 6 of the Pre-K Priority partners to supply direct services with the support of the full coalition
- Fiduciary administrator Smart Start of Forsyth County



2023-2025

2-Year Model Cohort Classrooms

An equitable mix within the current Pre-K landscape

- 4 Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County classrooms
- 4 Head Start classrooms
- 8 NC Pre-K classrooms in the community
- 14 private/independent classrooms in the community (that do NOT receive public funding)



2-Year Model Cohort Classrooms

Supports & Resources include

- Coaching Support & Resources
- Retention Bonus for Teachers
- Salary Equity for Teachers
- Tuition Support/Scholarship Opportunities and stipends
- Family Engagement via Advocates/Specialists
- Professional Development
- Translation Services
- Equity lens/focus across the Pre-K system
- Movement toward integrated data systems
- Evaluation of the model cohort



Supports & Resources: Teacher Focus



COACHING

Coordination and delivery of licensed Early Childhood Education Coaches to provide support and related resources to teachers and assistants in the cohort classrooms



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Structured PD courses and trainings, aligned with coaching assessments to boost teacher skills, fidelity, and confidence in delivering high-quality care and instruction



Supports & Resources: Teacher Focus



SALARY EQUITY

Consistent and equitable compensation for Pre-K Teachers and Assistant Teachers within the 30-classroom model based on the WS/FCS salary schedule



RETENTION BONUSES

Incentive based payments for Pre-K Lead Teachers and Assistant Teachers that remain in a program/site on a year-to-year basis (amount aligned with the WS/FCS retention bonus)



TUTION SUPPORT

Coordination and delivery of scholarship/tuition funding for students and professionals continuing or returning to institutions of higher learning to obtain higher ECE credentials



Supports & Resources: Classroom Focus



ECE CURRICULUM & FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Creative Curriculum for Preschool and Teaching Strategies GOLD; aligned and complementary tools that are evidenced-based toward whole-child development.



IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Assistance includes a number of resources ranging from teacher supports to actual classroom materials and resources to implement various programmatic components.



Supports & Resources: Child & Family Focus



TRANSLATION SERVICES

Support English Language Learners and their families, especially during enrollment periods and community engagement activities related to Pre-K.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT

Family engagement specialists designated to support cohort classrooms to support parents/family using the evidence-based family engagement model employed by the Head Start program.



HEALTH & WELLNESS SCREENINGS

Health and wellness screenings (dental, vision) and also an environmental classroom assessment by a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC).



Supports & Resources: Process and Outcomes Focus



To Be Determined

INTEGRATION OF DATA SYSTEMS

Coordination, collection, and streamlining of data currently housed in disparate systems across various Pre-K providers.

PRE-K EQUITY FOCUS

A dedicated resource to assess the status of equity across the current ECE landscape, while applying an equity lens to the practices and policies within the 30-classrooms.

EVALUATION OF COHORT MODEL

Best practices and evidence-based methodologies to analyze the model cohort program's progress, as well as all participants.



Private/Independent Provider Eligibility Criteria

Fourteen of the 30 classrooms in the two-year model cohort will be placed in Forsyth County licensed centers that meet the following criteria:

1. An independent, privately-owned, community, or franchise child care center
2. Holds a 3-, 4-, or 5-star North Carolina QRIS rating
3. Currently has a classroom or multiple classroom(s) serving 4 -year-olds
4. The classroom does not receive public funding from NC Pre-K or Head Start
*Note the classroom may have children enrolled that receive individualized subsidy payments



Private/Independent Provider Partnership Agreement

For centers to participate, they must be willing to partner and agree to the following:

- Work collaboratively with Smart Start of Forsyth County (and other partners streamlined into the process) who will administer the resources and supports.
- Share information related to the demographics of the children in the 4-year-old classroom. Note that all personal information will be de-identified.
- Share information related to the teaching staff in the 4-year-old classroom that includes, professional credentialing level, salary, years' experience, and the amount/type of professional development and/or training that is provided to staff annually.
- Share information related to the current curricula in use for four-year-old classrooms and be willing to incorporate the Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tools with financial support and training.
- Visits and consultation with Forsyth Futures (partner performing data collection), an independent evaluator, and possibly other related partners to support gathering data for the evaluation process throughout the two-year cohort.



ARPA Contract Administration



Apply For Your Site

- Applications for consideration are being accepted now through **Monday, May 1.**
- Licensed providers who meet the requirements are invited to submit their application to [Glynnise Highsmith](#), Senior Director of Pre-K Initiatives at Smart Start of Forsyth County.
- SSFC's website has complete details, see <https://smartstart-fc.org/arpa-pre-k-cohort/>