



Our Goals & Priorities

The Henderson County Early Childhood Taskforce has several priorities that all fall under 3 overarching goals. Here are some ways we want to make real impact:

Goal 1: Increase Community Awareness & Advocacy

- a. Increase community awareness of barriers to high-quality child care and its impact to the local workforce
- b. Increase grassroots advocacy for systemic and impactful change to support local families, early childhood educators, and the economy
- c. Support regional advocacy efforts for a statewide child care subsidy reimbursement rate floor to improve child care providers' ability to ensure equitable access to care
- d. Strengthen relationships with early childhood education center directors, providers, and teachers and elicit real-time feedback through regular touchpoints

Goal 2: Stabilize the Early Childhood Workforce

- a. Strengthen the local talent pipeline of early childhood educators
- b. Increase high school student interest in Early Childhood Education as a career path in Henderson County
- c. Increase local support of workforce development programs that train highly qualified early childhood educators (e.g. CFRC, Blue Ridge Community College)

Goal 3: Increase Revenue Streams for Child Care

- a. Expand employer and business investments to increase child care slots and reduce barriers for families
- b. Pilot the NC Tri-Share Program in Henderson County employers
- c. Increase government, school system and private investments to expand Pre-K availability and access

About the Taskforce:

The Henderson County Early Childhood Taskforce is a collaborative group of local parents, child care providers, educators, business leaders, healthcare professionals, nonprofit organizations, and community partners working together to strengthen access to affordable, high-quality child care in our community. The Taskforce was formed because child care impacts much more than individual families – it impacts our workforce, local businesses, schools, healthcare systems, and the overall well-being of Henderson County.