

What's Happening in NC Legislation This Month?



At the end of last month, House and Senate leaders passed a compromise budget proposal, **HB966**. The Governor vetoed this budget and talks are continuing as the Governor advocates for closing the Medicaid coverage gap. In the meantime, here is what's included for funding for children and families in our state in the legislative budget compromise:

Early Childhood Education Funding

More than 30,000 children are on a waiting list for child-care subsidies so that parents can work, and kids can get high-quality early education, preparing them for school success. The budget includes only \$3.1 M in additional funding for child-care subsidies.

NC Office of Child Fatality Prevention

The budget includes \$150K in FY20 and \$300K in FY21 for a new [NC Office of Child Fatality Prevention](#).

Child Abuse Prevention

SB199 The SAFE Child Act – along with HB 37, a companion bill – together includes a number of provisions aimed at preventing child sexual abuse, encouraging reporting, and holding offenders accountable. The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee and has been sent to the House Rules Committee. The bill would do the following:

1. Extend the statute of limitations for survivors of child sexual abuse (both criminal and civil)
2. Expand the duty to report child abuse
3. Prohibit high-risk sex offenders from looking at social media profiles or joining online groups with children 16 and under.

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ([NCDHHS](#))

Nurse Family Partnership - The budget includes \$1M in recurring funding for NFP in both years- this will provide home visiting and support for families.

Early Child Development and Education ([Smart Start](#))

1. *Child Care Activities: \$1.4M in FY20 and FY21*
2. *Health Activities: \$300K in FY20 and FY21*
3. *Family Support: \$300K in FY20 and FY21- this can be spent on Parenting Education and Home Visiting*
4. *Subsidy: \$393K in FY20 and FY21*

Social Services

Child Advocacy Centers - The budget includes a \$500,000 non-recurring funding increase in FY20.

Intensive Family Preservation Services - There is a \$1M in additional recurring funding in both years for Intensive Family Preservation Services which work to reduce out of home placements.