



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Program Evaluation Support

Issue Date: Monday, April 20, 2026

Due Date: Friday, May 8, 2026

The Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) is a local non-profit strategically directing over \$18M annually for young children, families, and early childhood educators in Guilford County. Most of GCPC's funding comes from state and federal funding through contracts with the NC Partnership for Children (NCPC) and the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). Additional funding comes from local foundations, corporate, and individual giving. GCPC is part of North Carolina's nationally recognized, statewide Smart Start network. Our mission is to partner with families, early childhood educators, and our community to support the diverse needs of children prenatal to age five, ensuring their success in school and in life.

School readiness investments include:

- **High quality childcare** for vulnerable 4-year-old children. The NC Pre-K program funds over 2,000 high-quality preschool slots in 4- or 5-star child care programs.
- **Professional development for early childhood educators and caregivers** in quality improvement, family engagement, inclusion, classroom management, and guiding healthy habits. Training includes, but is not limited to, trauma informed teacher-child interactions to ensure emotionally responsive, age and culturally appropriate learning environments. Child Care Health Consultation ensures adherence to health and safety standards. Peer coaching, community learning, and workforce retention support is also offered.
- **Family support services** that include evidence-based home visiting programs such as Parents as Teachers, Healthy Start, and Guilford Family Connects. Some individualized mental health services are available for children participating in NC Pre-K. Neonatal and neonatal intensive care support are also available.
- **Early literacy programs** include Reading Connections' Family Literacy Program: *Read with Me, Grow with Me.*, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

More about Smart Start

Smart Start's mission is to advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable early childhood system that benefits each child in North Carolina beginning with a healthy birth.

What is Smart Start?

Smart Start brings together all the people involved in a young child's life, including families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers, and many others, to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development. Experiences during early childhood shape the structure of the brain. Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents, and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive.

Smart Start measurably increases the health and well-being of young children birth to five, building the foundation for future learning, by:

- Improving children’s early care and education programs so that they are safe and healthy and provide opportunities for children to learn skills they need for success in school.
- Providing parents and caregivers with tools that support them in raising healthy, happy, successful children.
- Ensuring that children have access to preventive health care.

Guilford County Partnership for Children’s Funded Partners for FY 2025 – 2026

(Funding decisions for FY26-27 will be made in May 2026)

Early Care & Education

- Bringing Out the Best (BOB) – UNCG Center for Youth, Families & Community Partnerships
- Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health
- POC/Rising Stars – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Social Services
- State Subsidy Contract Administration – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Social Services
- Education, Quality Improvement & Professional Development (EQuIPD) – UNCG
- Child Care WAGE\$ – Early years
- CDA Apprenticeship – Generation Ed

Family Support

- Family Literacy/Language Development – Reading Connections
- Triple P – Bringing Out the Best, UNCG Center for Youth, Families and Community Partnership
- Healthy Start – Family Service of the Piedmont
- Parents as Teachers Guilford County – YWCA High Point

Health

- Family Connects Guilford – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health
- NICU Family Support – Family Support Network of Central Carolina
- Adopt-A-Mom Program/Prenatal Care – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health
- Therapeutic Early Intervention Program – Growing Connections for Pediatric Achievements (GCPA)

Program Support

- Awareness and Engagement – Guilford County Partnership for Children
- Program Coordination & Evaluation – Guilford County Partnership for Children
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library – Guilford County Partnership for Children

Scope of Services

The Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) is seeking a qualified individual or organization to provide comprehensive evaluation services for FY 2026 – 2027, (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The purpose of this service is to support GCPC’s commitment to use meaningful data that supports high level collaboration, equitable, scalable and sustainable impact for young children and families and early childhood educators, to evaluate funded program’s efforts to effect change and meet community needs, and to work with the NCPC Learning and Evaluation staff on State level data collection efforts.

The Evaluator must be familiar with local, state, and national early childhood data and funding

streams.

Ideal candidates or organizations have experience with creating or maintaining school readiness related dashboards and preparing professional data presentations that delineate disaggregated output or outcome data in the context of Guilford County's early childhood landscape. Candidates must understand the fundamentals of collecting and reporting data ethically while centering equity. Experience or basic understanding of the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the National Neighborhood Equity Index (NNEI).

Deliverables

- In coordination with the Director of Smart Start Investments and the Executive Director, the Evaluator will facilitate evaluation planning meetings with each Smart Start funded program, currently 12 Direct Service Providers (DSPs), by August 31, 2026. GCPC estimates 3 hours for each meeting which includes preparation, review, and follow up. Workbooks for quarterly data collection should be provided to each DSP within 10 business days after the meeting.
- Facilitate an evaluation planning meeting with GCPC's Program Planning & Accountability (PP&A) Committee.
- Prepare and submit quarterly reports, including an Executive Summary, by the 20th day of July, October, January, and April to the Director of Smart Start Investments (5 hours quarterly). Director of Smart Start Investments or Executive Director will delegate data entry internally into CDMS, a system GCPC uses as a partner in the Smart Start Network.
- Lead and complete annual evaluation monitoring for each DSP by June 30, 2027 (up to 60 hours annually)
- Participate in bi-monthly PP&A Committee meetings (90 minutes each).
- Provide technical assistance related to evaluation upon the request of GCPC staff or a DSP (up to 40 hours annually)

Progress

Progress is evaluated on multiple levels, including:

- Alignment with contract deliverables including analyzing program level data and drafting summary reports for staff, committee, and board.
- Supporting GCPC in:
 - Serving children and families with "highest need"
 - Impacting a sizable number of children and/or families (scale/reach) in a meaningful, measurable way
 - Measurable impact toward organizational and community goals in addressing the child care crisis
- Adhering to GCPC/NCPC fiscal policies and expectations (including correct level and type of monthly back up documentation)

Proposal Requirements

- Describe your background and qualifications, including education and professional experience, to complete the work.
- Knowledge of and expertise in early childhood systems in North Carolina or elsewhere
- Knowledge of early childhood data sources and experience in successfully obtaining requested data from State and local partners
- Describe your process for:
 - providing consultation and support to various service providers for data collection, data analysis, data visualization, and reporting
 - developing and executing study designs and surveys
- Working with partners to identify data sources and collect additional data.

- Approach to identifying data sharing partnerships and analyzing, visualizing, and reporting data to various audiences.
- List processes, tools, apps, or software used for quantitative analysis.
- Provide samples of prior work experience. This may include reports, infographics, and preferred data collection tools.
- Budget (hourly and/or flat rate)
- Provide at least three references for your work as an evaluator.

Compensation

GCPC anticipates this contract will not exceed \$30,000 for the fiscal year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

Submission Guidance

Proposals should be submitted via email to operations@guilfordchildren.org by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 8, 2026.