

# The Child Care Infrastructure: Workforce Development

## 2024 Data Snapshot



### Early Childhood Development: The Future Workforce

- 90% of brain development happens by the age of 5
- 31,550 children ages 0-5, not yet in kindergarten, are living in Guilford County
- Kindergarten readiness is a key indicator of life long success
- \$1 invested in early childhood yields a \$4-\$16 return
- 30.9% of Guilford County children ages 0-5, not yet in kindergarten, are enrolled in a licensed childcare facility
- 24% of children ages 5 and younger in Guilford County live in poverty



### Childcare Accessibility & Affordability: The Active Workforce

- 10.2% decline in number of available licensed childcare facilities and homes
- 81.4% of males participate in the labor force regardless of parental status while 78.8% of females participate in the labor force when children are under age 6
- Accessible childcare could increase North Carolina's annual economic input by up to \$13.3 billion and boost GDP by \$17 billion
- 69% of children under the age of 6 living in Guilford County live in a household where the sole parent or both parents in the household work, while only 30.9% are enrolled in care
- 20.8% of family income goes to childcare for a 2-year-old in a 4-star facility for a median family household income
- 2,166 eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in the largest NC Pre-K program in the state



### Early Childhood Education: The Driving Workforce

- Median hourly wage for an early educator is \$13.50, below all comparable counties
- Almost half (49%) of early educators reported public assistance usage
- 19% turnover rate among Child Care WAGE\$ participants in Guilford County in 2024
- 9.1% decrease in overall childcare enrollment over a 5-year period

