

Basic Needs: Pre-Read for Workgroup Meeting #1

October 22nd ECAP Workgroup Meeting

Overview

This document contains:

- Data to report out on the ECAP 2025 targets and sub-targets for each of the two goals
- A summary of the strengths and weaknesses (identified at the launch meeting) to meet the ECAP goals
- An early childhood services inventory and summary of relevant cross-agency taskforces that already exist in Durham related to the Basic Needs goals

We will use this information in the October 22nd workgroup meeting to:

- Discuss the data and take an equity approach to our data analysis
- Discuss our Durham-specific ECAP sub-targets
- Identify the highest-priority needs in Durham that need to be addressed in order to meet these goals, as well as the primary assets and community strengths that will help us meet our goals

Questions to keep in mind:

- Equity Lens to the Data:
 - What do you notice when you look at the data? Anything surprising, confusing, unclear?
 - What disparities do you see and what do you think is causing those?
 - Whose experiences are not represented or might be misrepresented in the data?
 - How does the data align with your direct experience?
 - Whose perspective is needed to understand the data?
- Durham-specific 2025 Targets and Sub-Targets?
 - Should our 2025 target here in Durham be the same as the state's?
 - If not, how should we determine what it should be?
 - What will we be able to accomplish in Durham? Should 2025 be the goalpost?
 - How does COVID-19 impact our sub-targets?
- Needs:
 - What other challenges are there in Durham preventing us from meeting the ECAP goals?
- Assets:
 - What other strengths are there in Durham that can help us meet the ECAP goals?
 - How might we more intentionally consider the community-based assets here in Durham?
- In summary:
 - After reviewing this document, what are the areas of greatest need that you see? Greatest strengths?
 - What reports, research, or recommendations have you found that you think will be important for us to consider as we brainstorm strategies to reach the ECAP goals?
 - What approaches should we take to bring other perspectives, especially those of people experiencing the problem, into the conversation?

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Goal 3: Food Security	3
Goal 4: Safe and Secure Housing	3
Detailed Data Review: Goal 3	4
Data Availability	5
Data Review:	5
2025 Target: Child Food Insecurity Rate	5
Sub-Target 1: State and Federal Supplemental Food and Nutrition Assistance Benefits	7
Sub-Target 2: Low Access to Food	8
Sub-Target 3: Rates of Young Children Who Are Obese or Overweight	9
Sub-Target 4: Poverty	10
Detailed Data Review: Goal 4	11
Data Availability	11
Data Review:	11
2025 Target: Children Experiencing Homelessness	11
Sub-Target 1: High Housing Cost Burden	15
Sub-Target 2: Children Facing Homelessness and Participating in Education Programs	16
Sub-Target 3: Rates of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma Care	16
Sub-Target 4: Children Receiving Lead Screening with Elevated Lead Levels	17
Sub-Target 5: Poverty	18
Detailed Data Review: Additional Goal Areas to Be Defined	19
Data Review	19
Durham Early Childhood Services and Assets	20
Durham Early Childhood Services Inventory: Basic Needs	20
Relevant Taskforces and Workgroups	21
Summary of Strengths and Weaknesses	22

GOAL 3: FOOD SECURITY				
TARGET	SHORT DESCRIPTION	METRIC	NC	DURHAM
2025 Target	Child Food Insecurity Rate	Child Food Insecurity Rate for Children Ages 0 – 17	19.3% 2018	17.3% 2018
Sub-Target 1	State and Federal Supplemental Food and Nutrition Assistance Benefits	Percent of Eligible Families in North Carolina Receiving State and Federal Supplemental Food/Nutrition Assistance Benefits from Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program	61.4% 2017	55.4% 2018
Sub-Target 2	Children with Low Access to Food	Percent of Total North Carolina Population Who Are 0 – 17 Years of Age and Have Low Access to Healthy Food	11.5% 2010-15	15.2% 2010-15
Sub-Target 3	Children Obese or Overweight	Percent of Children Aged 2–4 Who Receive WIC, and Who Are Classified as Either Overweight or Obese	30.7% 2017	28.0% 2017
Sub-Target 4	Poverty	Percent of Families with Children Aged 0 - 8 Living at or Below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level	52.4% 2016	-

GOAL 4: SAFE AND SECURE HOUSING				
TARGET	SHORT DESCRIPTION	METRIC	NC	DURHAM
2025 Target	Children Experiencing Homelessness	Number of Children Under Age Six Experiencing Homelessness	26,198 2015	-
		Number of Children K – 3rd Grade Enrolled in Public Schools Experiencing Homelessness	9,970 2018	356 2019-20
Sub-Target 1	High Housing Cost Burden	Percent of Households with Children Ages 0 – 8 Facing High Housing Cost Burden (Spent More than 30% of Income on Housing)	32.7% 2016	-
Sub-Target 2	Children Facing Homelessness and Participating in Education Programs	Number of Children K – 3rd Grade Facing Homelessness Enrolled in Public Schools	9,970 2018	356 2019-20
		Total Number of Children Facing Homelessness and Enrolled in Subsidized Child Care	1,294	-
Sub-Target 3	Rates of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma Care	Rates of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma Care per 1,000 Children Ages 0 – 8 in North Carolina	8.5 2017	6.2 2017
Sub-Target 4	Children Receiving Lead Screening with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	Percent of Young Children Receiving Lead Screening with Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels (Ages 1 and 2)	.38 2017	.22 2017
Sub-Target 5	Poverty	Percent of Families with Children Aged 0 - 8 Living at or Below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level	52.4% 2016	-

Detailed Data Review

GOAL 3

GOAL 4

Additional Goal TBD



Goal 3: Food Security

COMMITMENT: Babies, toddlers, young children, and their families across North Carolina will have access to enough healthy food every day.

2025 TARGET: By 2025, decrease the percentage of children living across North Carolina in food insecure homes from 20.9% to 17.5% according to data provided [Feeding America](#).¹⁰

SUB-TARGETS:

1. **Percent of eligible families receiving state and federal supplemental food/nutrition assistance benefits**
 - **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

DATA SOURCE: [NC Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) Program](#), Nutrition Services Branch, Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

TREND BY 2025: Increasing

2. **Children aged 0-17 years with low access to food**
 - **Statewide**
 - **County-level**

DATA SOURCE: [United States Department of Agriculture](#)

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

3. **Rates of young children who are obese or overweight**
 - **Percent of children aged 2-4 years who receive WIC and who are classified as either overweight or obese**

DATA SOURCE: [NC Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) Program](#), Nutrition Services Branch, Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

4. **Percent of families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level**

DATA SOURCE: [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#), U.S. Census Bureau

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

For more details, visit the [interactive NC Early Childhood Action Plan Data Dashboard](#)

DATA AVAILABILITY

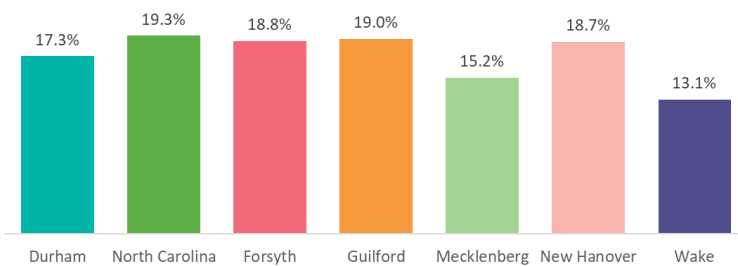
		Can this sub-target be reported at the County Level with the ECAP data source?	Does the ECAP County Data Report Provide County-Level Data?	Can we get this data at the County-Level?
2025 Target	Child Food Insecurity Rate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sub-Target 1	State and Federal Supplemental Food and Nutrition Assistance Benefits	Yes	No	Yes
Sub-Target 2	Children with Low Access to Food	No	No	Yes
Sub-Target 3	Children Obese or Overweight	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sub-Target 4	Poverty	Yes	No	Similar Metrics

DATA REVIEW: HOW ARE WE DOING AS A COUNTY ON THE TARGETS AND SUB-TARGETS FOR GOAL 3?

2025 TARGET: *Decrease the percentage of children living across North Carolina in food insecure homes from 20.9% to 17.5% according to data provided by Feeding America.*

Too many children in Durham do not have access to enough food or do not get enough quality, nutritious food.¹ While a lower percentage of children in Durham experience food insecurity (17.3 percent) than the statewide average (19.0 percent), these figures are both higher than the national average (15.2 percent).

Percent of Children Aged 0-17 Who Are Food Insecure by County, 2018



Source: Feeding America, 2018. [Child Food Insecurity in North Carolina.](#)

The latest year reported by Feeding America is 2018 and we know that food insecurity has only worsened in 2020 as a result of the pandemic and resulting family economic insecurity. As schools have gone remote, many children across Durham lost access to the free breakfast and lunches provided at

¹ ["North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan."](#) NCDHHS, February 2019.

schools. 64.46 percent of children in Durham Public Schools receive free or reduced school meals.² DPS and the Durham community have combined efforts to promote emergency food services to families in need through distribution sites and home deliveries.

However, food insecurity remains a source of stress for families across Durham. Across North Carolina, about 9 percent of people reported not having enough food within the past week.³ Members of the County's Food Security Taskforce report that food pantries have seen an approximately 50% increase in demand for food assistance since the pandemic started. The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina reports a 38 percent increase in need of food.⁴ Feeding America projects that food insecurity will affect almost 25.3 percent of Durham's children in 2020, compared to the 17.3% of children it impacted in 2018.⁵

² ["Free and Reduced Statistics."](#) Durham Public Schools, 2019-2020 School Year.

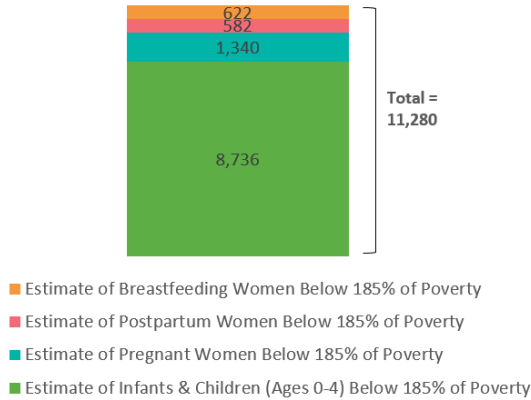
³ ["Week 14 Household Pulse Survey: September 2 – September 14."](#) United States Census Bureau. September 25, 2020. Accessed October 2020.

⁴ ["More North Carolinians Facing Hunger for the First Time."](#) Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Accessed October 2020.

⁵ ["The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity."](#) Feeding America. June 2020.

SUB-TARGET 1: Increase the percent of eligible families receiving state and federal supplemental food/nutrition assistance benefits: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Minimum Estimated Eligible Population for WIC in Durham County



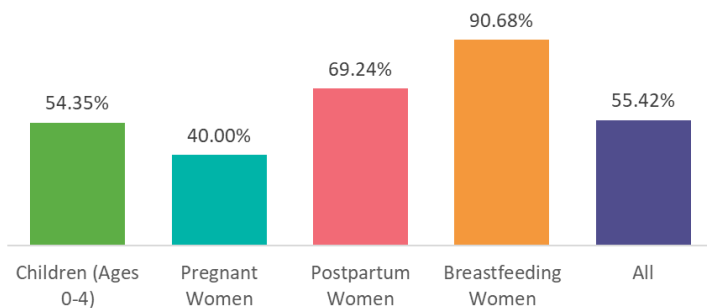
The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides a federal grant to North Carolina for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.⁶ “Nutritional risk” is assessed at a WIC Clinic at no cost to determine if the individual has health risk factors (like being underweight or anemic) or dietary risk factors (like a poor diet).⁷

In Durham, Lincoln Community Health is the WIC clinic administering WIC services. As of 2018, there are an estimated 11,280 individuals living in Durham County who are eligible for WIC services.

Source: DHHS, Division of Public Health, Nutrition Services, WIC Program. [“Minimum Population at Risk by Count of Residence, 2018.”](#)

Overall, 55.42 of the eligible population in Durham County is receiving WIC services, compared with 61.4 percent of the statewide eligible population. 90.68 percent of the eligible population of breastfeeding women are receiving WIC services, whereas only 40.00 percent of the eligible population of pregnant women are receiving WIC services.

Percent of Eligible Individuals in Durham County Receiving State and Federal Supplemental Food/Nutrition Assistance Benefits from Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program



Source: DHHS, Division of Public Health, Nutrition Services, WIC Program. [Minimum Population at Risk by County of Residence, 2018.](#) [Pregnant Women Only.](#) [Breastfeeding Women Only.](#) [Post-Partum Women Only.](#) [Infants Only.](#) [Children Only.](#)

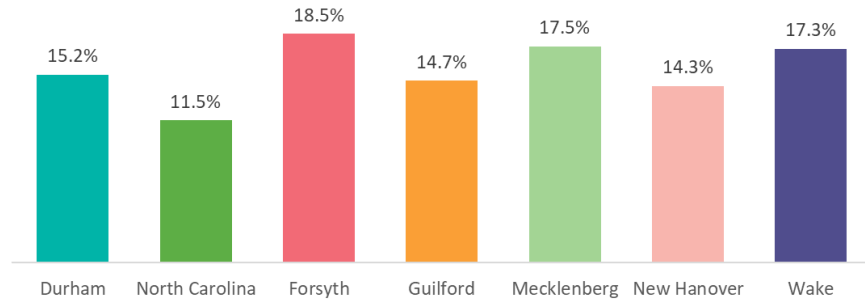
⁶ [“Am I Eligible for WIC?”](#) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Accessed October 2020.

⁷ [“WIC Eligibility Requirements.”](#) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Accessed October 2020.

SUB-TARGET 2: Decrease the number of children aged 0-17 years with low access to food.

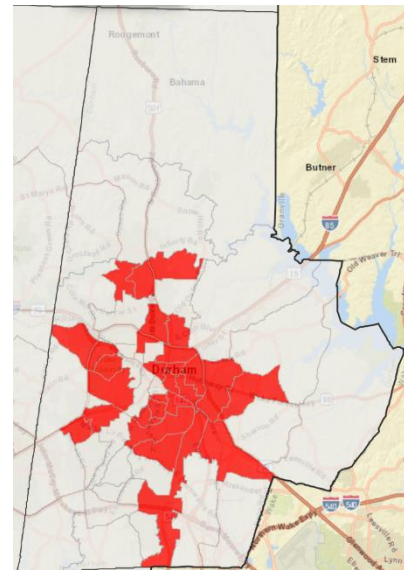
This ECAP sub-target is measured using the USDA’s Food Access Research Atlas, formerly known as the Food Desert Locator. Food deserts are areas with limited access to grocery stores, making it more likely that families will need to shop at places like gas stations with less nutritious options. Food deserts are frequently characterized by higher levels of poverty and food insecurity and children living in these areas are more likely to be overweight or obese.⁸

Percent of Population Who Are 0 – 17 Years of Age and Have Low Access to Healthy Food by County



Source: USDA Food Access Research Atlas, 2017. Early Childhood Action Plan Durham County Data Report, 2019.

Technical Note: The data shown are from the USDA Food Access Research Atlas. This data source uses low access data from the 2017 report, Low-Income and Low-Supermarket-Access Census Tracts, 2010-2015. This report includes estimates of low-income and low-supermarket-access census tracts (as found in ERS’ Food Access Research Atlas) using a 2015 directory of supermarkets, 2010 Decennial Census data on population and sub-population characteristics, and 2010-2014 American Community Survey data on household vehicle access and family income. Percentages indicate the share of a total county population that is low access for children ages 0-17 in the county. Low access to healthy food is defined as living more than ½ mile (urban areas) or more than 10 miles (rural areas) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store.



Durham has a higher percentage of children with low access to healthy food compared to the statewide average. While the selected comparison counties have fairly similar rates, they are all hotspots within the state with higher percentages of children with low access to healthy food than other counties.

According to the Food Access Research Atlas, the census tracts highlighted in red in Durham County were defined as Food Deserts using 2015 data.⁹

Additionally, the [Durham Neighborhood Compass](#) tracks homes near grocery stores. Overall, 13.9% of homes in Durham County are near a grocery store as of 2018.

⁸ Schafft et al. “[Food Deserts and Overweight Schoolchildren: Evidence from Pennsylvania.](#)” Rural Sociology, 74(2):153-177. October 2009.

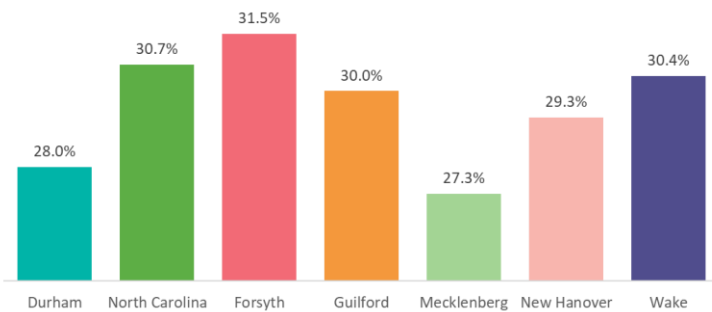
⁹ “[North Carolina Social Determinants of Health by Regions.](#)” NC State Center for Health Statistics. Food Research Atlas. Data from 2015.

SUB-TARGET 3: Decrease the percent of young children who are obese or overweight: Percent of children aged 2-4 years who receive WIC and who are classified as either overweight or obese.

Childhood obesity harms the body in a variety of ways. Children who have obesity are more likely to suffer from breathing problems like asthma, high blood pressure and high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, joint problems and fatty liver disease. Additionally, childhood obesity is related to anxiety and depression, lower self-reported quality of life, and social problems like bullying and stigma.¹⁰

The structural violence of poverty contributes to childhood obesity as low-income families are more likely to live in food deserts, depend on lower-cost, processed foods, and lower access to parks and recreational programs.¹¹

Percent of Children Aged 2-4 Who Receive WIC, and Are Classified as Either Overweight or Obese by County, 2017



Source: NC Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, Nutrition Services Branch, Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHSS). Early Childhood Action Plan Durham County Data Report, 2019.

Technical Note: Children served in NC WIC Clinics are at or below 185% of the

federal poverty level. Therefore, these children are not representative of the general child population.

A slightly lower percentage of Durham’s children are overweight or obese in comparison with the state and similar counties.

¹⁰ [“Childhood Obesity Causes & Consequences.”](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed October 2020.

¹¹ Rogers, et al. [“The Relationship between Childhood Obesity, Low Socioeconomic Status, and Race/Ethnicity: Lessons from Massachusetts.”](#) Childhood Obesity, December 2015; 11(6):691-5.

SUB-TARGET 4: *Decrease the percent of families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.*

It is very clear that a household's income has a direct impact on so many of the other targets that the ECAP measures. It is often lifted up of one of the root causes of various health and educational outcomes. The Durham county data report did not provide this information at the county-level, however there are similar data points from other sources:

- 46 percent of Durham County's young children aged 0-6 live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.¹²
- More than a quarter of Durham's young children (26 percent) live in a home where the head of household's income is at or below poverty level.¹³
- Poverty rates have stark racial disparities: 37 percent of young children aged 0-8 who are Black and 36 percent who are Hispanic live in homes at or below poverty level; whereas only 8 percent of young white children in Durham live in poverty.¹⁴
- As of September 2020, 32 percent of adults with children in North Carolina are unemployed.¹⁵

¹² ["Measures of Success Data for Supporting Regional Coordination and Collaboration by Leveraging ESSA North Carolina State Consultant Meeting."](#) Pathways to Grade Level Reading. North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, February 2020.

¹³ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

¹⁴ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

¹⁵ Michelle Hughes, Color of Education Conference. October 13, 2020.

Detailed Data Review

GOAL 3

GOAL 4

Additional Goal TBD



Goal 4: Safe and Secure Housing

COMMITMENT: Babies, toddlers, young children, and their families across North Carolina will have access to safe, secure, and affordable housing.

2025 TARGET*:

Part 1) By 2025, decrease the percentage of children across North Carolina under age six experiencing homelessness by 10% from 26,198 to 23,578, according to data from the [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#).²⁶

Part 2) By 2025, decrease the number of children kindergarten through third grade enrolled in NC public schools who are experiencing homelessness by 10% from 9,970 to 8,973, according to data provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI).²⁷

SUB-TARGETS:

1. Percent of young children ages 0-8 in families with high housing cost burden

DATA SOURCE: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

2. Number of homeless children participating in education programs:

- High-quality early care and learning
- NC Public Schools, Pre-K – 3rd Grade

DATA SOURCE: NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

3. Rate of emergency department visits for asthma care for young children

DATA SOURCE: North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT), Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

4. Percent of young children tested with confirmed elevated blood lead levels

DATA SOURCE: NCLEAD Surveillance System, Children's Environmental Health, Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

5. Percent of families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

DATA SOURCE: American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau

TREND BY 2025: Decreasing

For more details, visit the [interactive NC Early Childhood Action Plan Data Dashboard](#)

DATA AVAILABILITY

		Can this sub-target be reported at the County Level with the ECAP data source?	Does the ECAP County Data Report Provide County-Level Data?	Can we get this data at the County-Level?
2025 Target (Part 1)	Children Under 6 Experiencing Homelessness	No	No	Yes (Estimated)
2025 Target (Part 2)	Children K-3 Experiencing Homelessness	Yes	No	Yes
Sub-Target 1	High Housing Cost Burden	Yes	No	Similar Metrics
Sub-Target 2	Children Facing Homelessness and Participating in Education Programs	Yes	No	TBD (ECE) Yes (K-12)
Sub-Target 3	Rates of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma Care	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sub-Target 4	Children Receiving Lead Screening with Elevated Blood Lead Levels	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sub-Target 5	Poverty	Yes	No	Similar Metrics

DATA REVIEW: HOW ARE WE DOING AS A COUNTY ON THE TARGETS AND SUB-TARGETS FOR GOAL 4?

2025 TARGET: Part 1) *Decrease the percentage of children across North Carolina under age 6 experiencing homelessness by 10% from 26,198 to 23,578, according to data from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).*

In 2017, the Administration for Children and Families released a report, “Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile” that estimates homelessness for children under 6 at the state level.¹⁶ This report does not provide data at the County Level.

The report estimates the percentage of children across North Carolina under age 6 experiencing homelessness using the Department of Education’s comprehensive data on the number of children in grades K-12 experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that about half (49.2%) of all children experiencing sheltered homelessness in 2015 were under age 6.¹⁷ The report methodology assumes that the Department of Education’s count of children in

¹⁶ [“Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile.”](#) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children & Families. June 2017.

¹⁷ [“Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: 50-State Profile.”](#) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children & Families. June 2017.

grades K-12 experiencing homelessness represents 50.8% of the overall population of children experiencing homelessness and can be used to estimate the number of children under age 6 experiencing homelessness nationally and in each state.

The Early Childhood Action Planning group can decide if this logic makes sense at the county level or if there is another measure of homelessness of children under 6 that we would like to use as a County.

2025 TARGET: Part 2) Decrease the number of children kindergarten through third grade enrolled in NC public schools who are experiencing homelessness by 10% from 9,970 to 8,973, according to data provided by the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI).

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.¹⁸ This Act requires schools to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance and success in school for students who lack a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”¹⁹

The McKinney-Vento Program meets the needs of homeless students attending Durham Public Schools by addressing academic challenges and family issues affecting their success in school.

In the 2019-20 school year, 356 children in Durham Public Schools kindergarten through third grade were served under McKinney-Vento.²⁰ Stark racial disparities persist for our young people - over 80 percent of young children in DPS experiencing homelessness are Black.²¹

These racial disparities in access to affordable housing have pernicious, historical roots beginning with the denial of 40 acres and a mule to the survivors of American slavery; carried on through the era of land loss under Jim Crow; and cemented by the racist redlining policies.²² Formerly redlined neighborhoods are now more vulnerable to burgeoning housing costs and displacement caused by urban revitalization and resulting gentrification.²³ These forces replicate deep-seated racial inequities.

As we consider preventing homelessness for our young children 0-8 in Durham, it is important to note that Durham has been in the midst of an affordable housing crisis that has only been exacerbated by the pandemic and has disproportionately impacted people of color in Durham. Homelessness is first and foremost caused by a lack of affordable housing.

In the five-year period from 2011-2015, homelessness decreased by 11.2 percent nationwide and 17.2 percent in North Carolina, but increased by 25 percent in Durham.²⁴ Simultaneously housing has become more and more expensive. Nationally, rents are rising at a pace of 3 percent, but in Durham that figure is

¹⁸ [“McKinney-Vento Act: Part B Education for Homeless Children and Youths.”](#) U.S. Code, Chapter 119, Subchapter VI. Accessed October 2020.

¹⁹ [“Student and Family Assistance.”](#) Durham Public Schools. Accessed October 2020.

²⁰ Durham Public Schools. McKinney-Vento Data for 2019-2020 School Year. Data Request for Durham Early Childhood Action Plan Needs and Assets Assessment, October 2020.

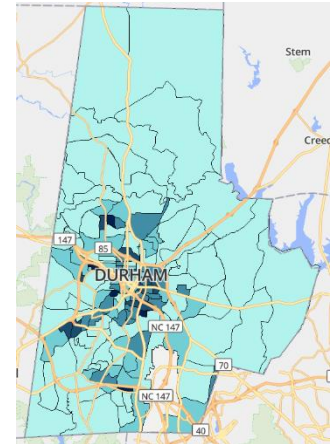
²¹ Durham Public Schools. McKinney-Vento Data for 2019-2020 School Year. Data Request for Durham Early Childhood Action Plan Needs and Assets Assessment, October 2020.

²² [“Report of the Durham Racial Equity Task Force: An Urgent and Loving Call to Action.”](#) Durham Racial Equity Taskforce. July 2020.

²³ De Marco, A., & Hunt, H. (2018). [“Racial Inequality, Poverty and Gentrification in Durham, North Carolina.”](#) Chapel Hill, NC: UNC School of Law, North Carolina Poverty Research Fund.

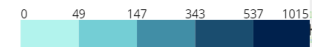
²⁴ [“2017 Durham County Community Health Assessment.”](#) Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Durham County, and Duke Health, 2017.

closer to 5.3 percent.²⁵ The monthly rent to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment in Durham is now \$990, which would require a family to earn \$39,600 annually.²⁶ Renters can be more vulnerable to the fluctuating market than homeowners. 49 percent of renters have difficulty affording their homes and 9,441 families faced an eviction filing in 2019.²⁷ This map shows evictions per square mile in 2019. Durham County has the highest rate of eviction filings among the state's 10 largest counties according to a lawyer at Legal Aid for North Carolina.²⁸



As families are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic insecurity, evictions have been a particular cause of concern. In June there were just under 40 evictions, but after the Governor's state eviction moratorium expired there were 223 evictions in July.²⁹

In an effort to increase affordability, housing units can be overcrowded. As of 2017, 15 percent of young children in Durham ages 0-8 lived in homes that were overcrowded with a higher percentage among Hispanic children.³⁰ Living in overcrowded housing in early childhood is associated with diminished cognitive development.³¹



Source: Data Works, Durham Neighborhood Compass, [Evictions](#), 2019.

Homeowners face their own challenges with 16 percent of homeowners struggling to afford their home. 10 families in Durham County faced a foreclosure this year.³²

While affordable housing challenges are not unique to families with young children, young children – particularly young children of color – are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of homelessness and the stresses of housing insecurity.

²⁵ ["Raleigh-Durham Rents Rising at a Fast Rate than U.S."](#) U.S. News & World Report. October 29, 2019.

²⁶ <https://nchousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/NCH-CountyProfile-Durham.pdf>

²⁷ ["The 2019 Housing Need in Durham County."](#) North Carolina Housing Coalition, 2019.

²⁸ Sessoms, Ben and Innis, Charlie. News and Observer. ["Durham Renters Demand Halt to Evictions, But What More Can Local Government Do?"](#) Aug 23, 2020.

²⁹ Sessoms, Ben and Innis, Charlie. News and Observer. ["Durham Renters Demand Halt to Evictions, But What More Can Local Government Do?"](#) Aug 23, 2020.

³⁰ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

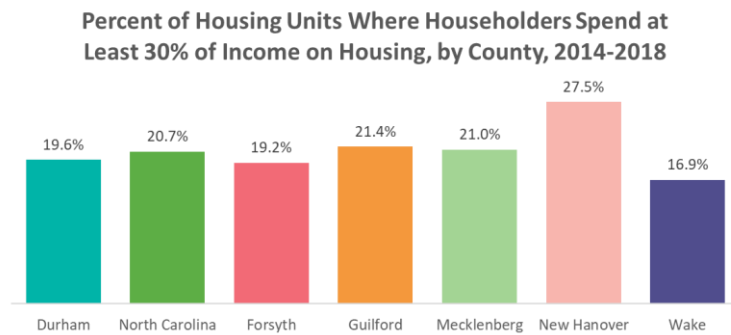
³¹ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

³² ["The 2019 Housing Need in Durham County."](#) North Carolina Housing Coalition, 2019.

SUB-TARGET 1: Decrease the percent of young children aged 0-8 in families with high housing cost burden.

Affordable housing, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, costs a family less than 30 percent of the family’s monthly income. Families paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income on housing have less resources to cover other basic needs like food and health care.³³

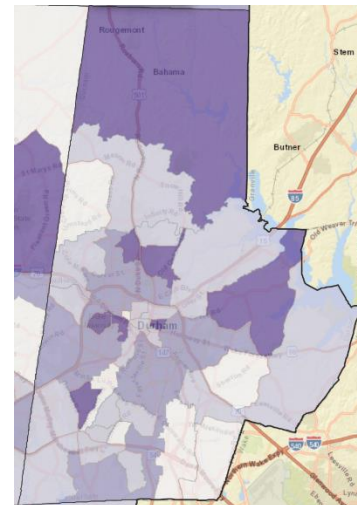
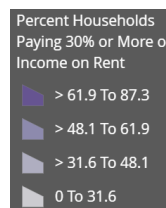
The NC ECAP Durham County Data Report did not provide the percentage of young children aged 0-8 facing high housing cost burden, however the Annie. E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center tracks the percent of housing units where householders spend at least 30 percent of their income on housing.



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. [High Housing Cost Burden, 2014-2018.](#)

In 19.6 percent of housing units, householders spend at least 30 percent of income on housing in Durham. However, this figure includes all households in Durham, not only those with children ages 0-8. As of 2017, 16 percent of children in Durham ages 0-8 live in a home that faces housing costs that exceed 50 percent of the household’s income.³⁴

Areas of dark purple on the map identify census tracts where households pay between 61.9 to 87.3% of monthly household income on housing.



Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, [North Carolina Social Determinants of Health by Regions.](#)

³³ “[2017 Durham County Community Health Assessment.](#)” Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Durham County, and Duke Health, 2017.

³⁴ “[State of Durham County’s Young Children.](#)” Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

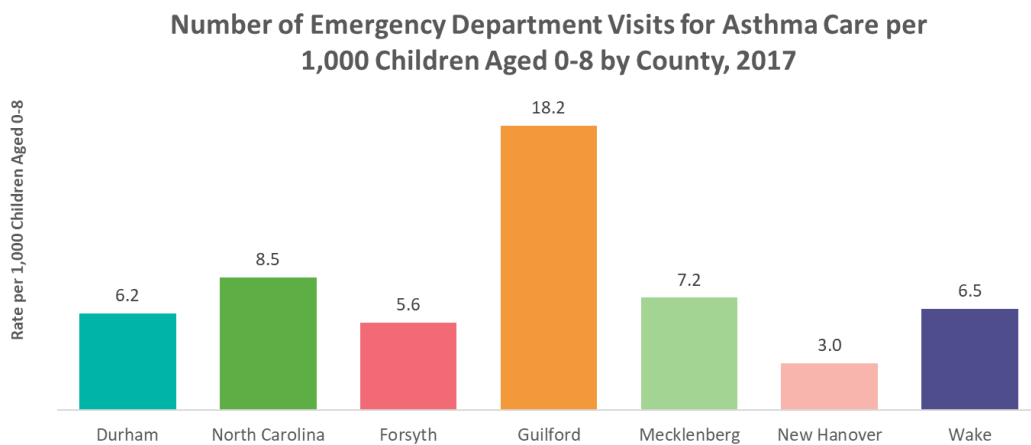
SUB-TARGET 2: Decrease the number of homeless children participating in education programs: High-quality early care and learning; NC Public Schools, Pre-K – 3rd Grade.

In the NC ECAP, the number of homeless children participating in high-quality early care and learning is measured by the total number of children facing homelessness and enrolled in subsidized child care.

In Durham, child care subsidies and scholarships are available through DSS and CCSA. We do not have available data at this time to report out on the number of children facing homelessness and enrolled in subsidized child care here in Durham.

SUB-TARGET 3: Decrease the rate of emergency department visits for asthma care for young children.

Affordable and safe housing is critical to young children’s health in Durham. Substandard housing and indoor environmental exposures are linked with greater asthma morbidity and mortality for low-income racial/ethnic minority children living in urban areas.³⁵ Exposures to airborne allergens in the house like mold can trigger the development of asthma and asthma attacks.³⁶ Low income households often have less ability to advocate for needed repairs or to move to better housing because of the expense of private legal support, the lack of capacity in legal assistance programs, and lack of quality affordable housing options. This issue especially affects undocumented families, who are often ineligible for legal assistance programs, and are less likely to self-advocate because of fear of deportation.



Source: NC DETECT (North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool): ED Visit Data. Analysis by NC DPH Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. Early Childhood Action Plan Durham County Data Report, 2019.

Durham has a lower rate of emergency department visits for asthma care per 1,000 children than the state, but higher than Forsyth and New Hanover counties.

³⁵ Matsui, E.C. “[Environmental Exposures and Asthma Morbidity in Children Living in Urban Neighborhoods.](#)” Allergy, May 2014, 69(5): 553-558.

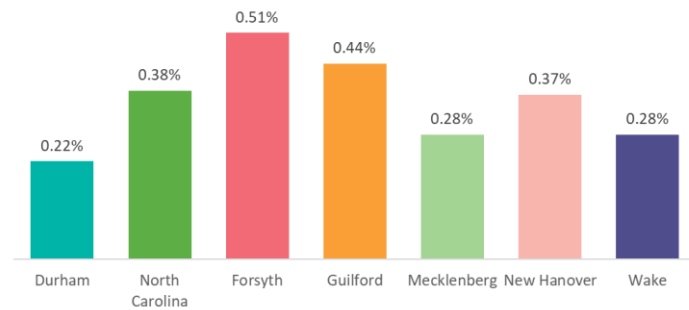
³⁶ “[2017 Durham County Community Health Assessment.](#)” Partnership for a Healthy Durham, Durham County, and Duke Health, 2017.

SUB-TARGET 4: Decrease the percent of young children tested with confirmed elevated blood lead levels.

Lead poisoning is a major environmental health concern and we have an opportunity to ensure children grow up in homes free from lead exposure. Children ages six and younger are more vulnerable to lead exposure as their nervous system is still developing, their bodies absorb four to five times as much ingested lead as adults from a given source, and they are more likely to expose themselves by putting their hands and other objects in their mouths.³⁷

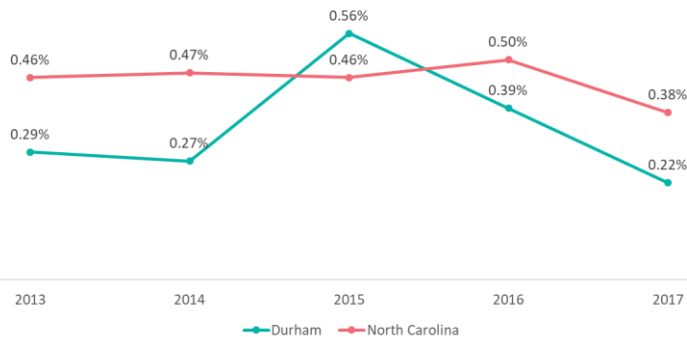
Lead poisoning disproportionately impacts children of color and children from low-income families who are more likely to live in substandard housing and polluted communities with higher risk of lead exposure.³⁸

Percent of Children Aged 1 and 2 Receiving Lead Screening with Confirmed Elevated Blood Lead Levels by County, 2017



Source: NCLEAD Surveillance System, NC Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance System, Children’s Environmental Health, Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). Early Childhood Action Plan Durham County Data Report, 2019.

Percent of Children Aged 1-2 Who Received Lead Screening and Had Confirmed Elevated Blood Levels



Durham County has a lower percentage of children who have confirmed elevated blood levels in comparison to the state and similar counties.

³⁷ [“Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young Children: Chapter 2.”](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Accessed October 2020.

³⁸ [“Learn about Lead.”](#) United States Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed October 2020.

SUB-TARGET 5: *Decrease the percent of families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.*

It is very clear that a household's income has a direct impact on so many of the other targets that the ECAP measures. It is often lifted up of one of the root causes of various health and educational outcomes. The Durham county data report did not provide this information at the county-level, however there are similar data points from other sources:

- 46 percent of Durham County's young children aged 0-6 live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.³⁹
- More than a quarter of Durham's young children (26 percent) live in a home where the head of household's income is at or below poverty level.⁴⁰
- Poverty rates have stark racial disparities: 37 percent of young children aged 0-8 who are Black and 36 percent who are Hispanic live in homes at or below poverty level; whereas only 8 percent of young white children in Durham live in poverty.⁴¹
- As of September 2020, 32 percent of adults with children in North Carolina are unemployed.⁴²

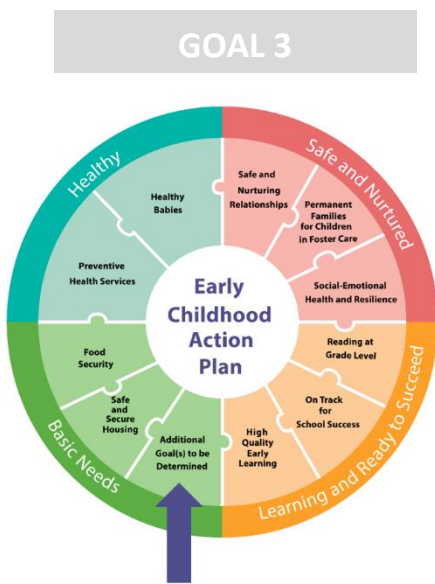
³⁹ ["Measures of Success Data for Supporting Regional Coordination and Collaboration by Leveraging ESSA North Carolina State Consultant Meeting."](#) Pathways to Grade Level Reading. North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, February 2020.

⁴⁰ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

⁴¹ ["State of Durham County's Young Children."](#) Duke Center for Child and Family Policy and Durham County, 2017.

⁴² Michelle Hughes, Color of Education Conference. October 13, 2020.

Are There Other Goals We Should Create for Basic Needs?



GOAL 3

GOAL 4

Additional Goal TBD

In addition to the goal areas in the NC Early Childhood Action Plan that have been relocated to the new “Basic Needs” goal area (Goal 3: Food Security and Goal 4: Safe and Secure Housing), there is an opportunity to add an additional goal area if the Basic Needs Workgroup decides to. We will discuss and make a decision about this over the course of our next two meetings.

Based on this brainstorming exercise in the ECAP Workgroup Launch using [Google Jamboard](https://jamboard.google.com/), there are a few additional areas of interest. One is family economic security. While there is a repeating sub-target through the ECAP goal areas to reduce the percentage of families with children aged 0-8 living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, family economic security is not explicitly called out as a goal area.

Another area is the basic need of necessary supplies like clothing, diapers, and hygiene products. For example, in the U.S. 1 in 3 families struggle to afford diapers, and in Durham County that number is closer to 1 in 2.⁴³ Currently in Durham only 12% of the need for diapers is met.⁴⁴

What basic needs should the Early Childhood Action Plan focus on?

ensuring sufficient, nutritious food is available to all young children.

equity in sharing food resources for children of all ages

Access to school based meal programs such as breakfast, lunch, after school snacks, summer meals and implementation of At-risk dinner meals.

access to milk banks for breastfed babies; diaper bank for new moms in needs

Parental support

School mentors

Strong political leadership

Create at least the number of homes that are needed to house homeless families with children.

Quality housing- a place the as a community we would be proud of

Adequate, safe housing for young children and families

1) safe housing . Love the idea of preserving existing housing.

Housing affordability

Ensure that all homes with children are safe & healthy. Address any health hazards, including: lead, mold, pests, CO, gas, and other air quality issues.

Not just access but easy and non-stigmatized access to meals/food

Ensure Food & Nutrition support is sufficient amount to afford healthy food. Some families receive nutrition assistance, that is not sufficient and/or not sufficient to afford healthy food.

In the US, 1 in 3 families struggle to afford diapers. In Durham County, this number is closer to 1 in 2.

Access to the basic need of diapers. Currently in Durham only 12% of need is met.

Instructions:

- Hover over the icons on the left-hand pane
- Select the 4th down to create a "sticky note"
- Write down one thought per sticky note
- Click & drag your sticky note away from top left

Discussion Question:

- Should the Durham ECAP add a goal area in the Basic Needs section? If so, what should that goal area be and what should the 2025 target be?

⁴³ Diaper Bank of North Carolina, 2020.

⁴⁴ Diaper Bank of North Carolina, 2020.

Durham Early Childhood Services and Assets

WHAT SERVICES AND ASSETS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN DURHAM COUNTY TO MEET THE ECAP GOALS?

Visit the [early childhood services inventory](#) to explore services in Durham helping to ensure children in Durham and their families have their basic needs met.

Additionally, End Hunger Durham has created the [Food Resources Map](#) which locates Durham area food resources.

In addition to filtering by the identified goal areas (Safe and Secure Housing and Food Security), there is an opportunity to filter by “Additional Goal Areas to be Defined.” This will be built out depending on the development of that goal area. A few themes emerged from the Jamboard activity in the workgroup launch to brainstorm additional goal areas for Basic Needs: access to necessary supplies (e.g. hygiene products, diapers, clothes) and family economic security. We have included these examples as service areas in the “Primary Service Area” filter, but a full inventory of service has yet to be included. We can add to it once the workgroup has decided on the additional goal area.

DURHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES INVENTORY: BASIC NEEDS

This interactive dashboard inventories the assets and services in Durham that help ensure that all children aged 0-8 grow up in families, schools, and communities where their basic needs are met.

1 SELECT YOUR FILTERS

Select the down arrow on the right side of each filter to select your desired ECAP Goal and Service Population. Check the boxes to select the service areas you would like to filter the services by. Adjusting one filter will adjust the options available in other filters.

ECAP Safe & Nurtured Goal

ECAP Goal ▾

Service Population

To find services that apply to a certain population, select "Yes - ONLY". To exclude a target population from your search, select "No - ONLY"

Pregnant and New Mothers ▾

Infants Birth - 1 and their Families ▾

Children 2- 3 and their Families ▾

Children 4-5 and their Families ▾

Children 6-8 and their Families ▾

Primary Service Areas

Service Area

Resources for Housing/Homelessness

Necessary Supplies

Home Lead Testing

Food and Nutrition Supports

Family Economic Security

2 VIEW THE RELEVANT SERVICES

Asset	Organization	Service Description	Website
Food Pantries	Multiple Organizations Providing Food Pantries	There are a number of food pantries throughout Durham that provide free access to food, clothing, and hygiene supplies to families, children, and seniors.	Click Here
Food Distribution	Food Bank of CENC	The Food Bank works to provide nutritious and enjoyable foods to partner organizations and to the Durham community to reduce food insecurity	Click Here
Food and Nutritional Services	Durham County Department of Social Services	Provides application assistance and processes applications for SNAP/EBT.	Click Here
WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	DHHS	WIC provides basic nutritious foods to eligible pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, as well as infants and children.	Click Here

1 - 10 / 49 < >

3 ADD OR EDIT

Want to submit a new service or update an existing service?

↓

[Click Here!](#)

The ECAP Basic Needs workgroup has representatives from the following taskforces which are also working to ensure children in Durham grow up with their basic needs met. The workgroup should consider how these groups might play a role in setting targets and strategies.

Taskforce	Mission	Goals
End Poverty Durham	Mobilize community organizations and the faith community to remove the scourge of poverty from our city. As a grassroots organization, we seek to support existing anti-poverty efforts and promote other initiatives that address the underlying causes of poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make our congregations aware of the crisis of poverty in our city. • To develop a plan to eliminate the crisis of poverty within the next 25 years. • Primary goal is to mobilize Durham congregations to reduce the 28% Durham child poverty rate.
Food Security Taskforce	Coalition of organizations in Durham County that is focused on reducing food insecurity issues for citizens in Durham County as part of Durham County’s COVID-19 emergency response to support the health and safety of the Durham community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support member organizations in feeding Durham County residents • Work together to identify gaps in the community’s response to food needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

Summary of Strengths and Weaknesses

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF DURHAM COUNTY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM TO MEET THE ECAP GOALS?

STRENGTHS of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 and their families have their basic needs met	WEAKNESSES of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 and their families have their basic needs met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great network of nonprofits and resources to help communities meet basic needs • An active, engaged and caring community • Engaged and supportive local leaders • Rich in healthcare resources • Strong medical and academic systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate services and resources for children experiencing homelessness • Inadequate support for families to access necessary early childhood supplies • Inconsistent and insufficient income • Lack of a comprehensive plan • Lack of affordable housing • Lack of agency to regulate lead safety • Lack of broadband access • Lack of funding • Lack of parent engagement • Lack of understanding of community needs amidst the pandemic / lack of community input • Language and cultural barriers • Stigma around food supports

What are the greatest STRENGTHS of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 have their basic needs met?

Instructions:
 - Hover over the icons on the left-hand pane
 - Select the 4th down to create a "sticky note"
 - Write down one thought per sticky note
 - Click & drag your sticky note away from top left

Medical and educational systems that support the community and provide outreach and access.

Durham is rich in healthcare resources that can be used to address basic needs of healthy food and housing to prevent asthma by reducing asthma triggers.

Durham Pre-K

Access to child care-most years the child care subsidy is cleared.

We have a very involved community base that supports initiatives and willingly volunteers to assist.

Community involvement.

Progressive thinking Community

LOTS of resources already exist in Durham

Strong non-profit community to support childhood dev

many great non-profits and resources available

We have a diaper bank. Many communities in NC and across the country do not.

Support of County and City Government

Our county gov. has funded early childhood programming.

What are the greatest CHALLENGES of Durham's early childhood system to ensure all children 0-8 have their basic needs met?

Instructions:
 - Hover over the icons on the left-hand pane
 - Select the 4th down to create a "sticky note"
 - Write down one thought per sticky note
 - Click & drag your sticky note away from top left

funding not guaranteed or available

Funding!

Lack of policies to address the basic need of hygiene products.

Inadequate supply of child care programs. Worsened by CV-19. Could soon become a crisis of little availability as programs close.

To date Durham does not have a cohesive strategy to support the development of children birth -8. This is why the ECAP is so very important.

Need more Family Voice at the table

There is no Durham agency that enforces lead safety in homes with children.

Parent support. Our data shows that when we support parent development young children thrive.

More input on what is needed from the community in our current environment

Low reimbursement for child care providers (subsidy)

Many families have to choose which basic need to spend limited income on. Rent, food, or diapers?

Language barriers

The cost of living, no affordable housing

Many parents have to sacrifice in order to work multiple jobs and still struggle with meeting basic needs.

Waiting list to receive a child care subsidy