

Basic Needs Recommendations



Purpose of these recommendations:

Children grow up in families, schools, and communities that provide for their basic needs.

Click on the recommendation below to see the strategies to implement the recommendation; why this recommendation is important to our community; and the action plans for each strategy.

<u>Recommendation 8</u>	Ensure families with young children have economic security and opportunities for wealth-building and long-term economic prosperity.
<u>Recommendation 9</u>	Promote access to safe, stable, affordable and healthy housing for families with young children.
<u>Recommendation 10</u>	Ensure families with young children have access to enough affordable, culturally relevant, healthy food every day.
<u>Recommendation 11</u>	Ensure families have the essential family supplies needed to support pre- and post-partum health and to care for babies and young children.
<u>Recommendation 12</u>	Provide reliable and free or low-cost transportation to early childhood services.

Recommendation 8: Economic Prosperity

Ensure Families with Young Children Have Economic Security and Opportunities for Wealth-Building and Long-Term Economic Prosperity

The Strategies to Implement This Recommendation

STRATEGY 8.1: Provide direct cash payments to low- and middle-income parents.

STRATEGY 8.2: Support a broad spectrum of parents, guardians, and caregivers of young children to get and sustain careers that provide a living wage, opportunities for wealth-building, benefits, worker protections, family-friendly policies, and opportunities for career progression.

STRATEGY 8.3: Make more equitable entrepreneurial and small business investments to diversify the power to shape culture.

Why this Recommendation is Important to Our Community

Overview

Parents and caregivers with low and middle incomes are struggling to make ends meet both because they feel they do not earn enough and because paying for early care and education, healthcare, and basic needs to ensure a safe and healthy childhood is expensive and financial supports are not readily available to everyone who needs them.

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.ⁱ As the ECAP report "Our Family Support System" section outlined, these challenges of poverty and economic disempowerment are rooted in historical and ongoing white supremacy, racism, and anti-Black racism specifically.

The County and large employers like Duke and Durham Public Schools have recently raised minimum wages to \$15 per hour, in large part thanks to national and local organizing movements like the Fight for \$15. However, parents continue to report financial insecurity in Durham. Many parents, especially young parents, expressed the need for more opportunities to increase their pay through training and professional development that is accessible for working parents.

Community Voices

"It's hard to live decent even with a good job." - Durham parent

"Work at Duke and still cannot afford a decent living." - Durham parent

"Minimum wage isn't enough." - Durham parent

"Good employment for parents because if mom need 2 jobs to take care of kids how can she invest in her child's education as well." - Durham parent

"MONEY. But it's true. You need money for the food. You need money for housing. You need money for everything and for the needs. If my parents would have had enough money they probably could have owned a larger house that had plenty of food and a proper and safe space to be in in a safer environment." - 9th grader in Durham Public Schools

Voices of the Durham ECAP Action Planning Team Who Worked on this Recommendation

"Economic Power, including having the opportunity to make a strong income, build wealth and own land and space is perhaps the most consequential factor underlying families' and young children's ability to thrive.

If there was only one place where we could focus our attention to improve experiences and outcomes for young children, this would be the most important place to focus. The mental health of parents rests largely on whether or not they are able to provide well for their families. Money was identified as the single biggest stressor by parents who participated in ECAP.

Moreover, equity in opportunities to own land and space are critical. Those who have wealth and own land and space get to decide what those spaces are used for, what values and interests will be centered, and who belongs. We must diversify the power to own land and space so that a diversity of children know that they belong in our community. A sense of belonging is critical to a child's positive sense of self.

Please note that for all of the strategies we've listed, we want to take the following approaches:

- Remove /alleviate stressors
- Focus on providing real opportunities to build intergenerational wealth
- Empower both parents and children at every step (two-generational approach)
- Empower families who fall below the poverty line as well as working class and middle class families (multi-social-economic-status approach)

We think that one of the challenges will be people's mental models, especially among those who have traditionally been the decision-makers in our community."

- Economic Prosperity Action Planning Team

The Action Plans

STRATEGY 8.1: Provide direct cash payments to low- and middle-income parents.	
<p><i>The easiest and most direct way to address family economic insecurity is to provide families with money. This strategy has proven very effective in many other cities and, most recently, at the national level with stimulus payments. Emerging research supports the notion that improving a family's income improves early childhood brain development.ⁱⁱ</i></p>	
SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)	LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Educate the public on Universal Basic Income (UBI) and other cash payment efforts and its benefits by lifting the voices and stories of groups providing cash payments and the families that receive them. ● Connect with UBI efforts in Durham and understand where there are opportunities to scale their efforts through public or private dollars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify and educate private funders about opportunities to invest in existing cash payment efforts in Durham. ● Garner support of local public officials and local leaders. ● Support policy advocacy and connecting with state-level senators and representatives. ● Conduct long-term evaluation to measure decreases in poverty rates, use of other social services, household stress, and improvements in other outcomes.
MEASURING PROGRESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More conversations happening about UBI in community, private, and government spaces, including awareness materials being circulated online and in-person ● Acknowledgements that lead to commitments from potential private and public donors on the opportunity UBI presents for the Durham community ● Public officials at the local and state level publicly committing to UBI ● Implementation of a direct cash program and widespread use of it by low- and middle-income parents 	
BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Durham Living Wage Project certifications and public recognition ● Durham Workers' Rights Commission and the Durham Workers' Bill of Rights ● Durham for All, a grassroots political organization building a new majority 10,000 people strong in our city and county ● City of Durham leaders have proposed a resolution calling on the state's federal lawmakers 	

to push for the “immediate enactment” of programs to provide reparations to the descendants of enslaved Africans

- [Equity Before Birth](#) provides direct cash payments to birthing persons of color
- [Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration \(SEED\)](#) provided \$500 monthly payments to Stockton, CA residents with low incomes in a 24-month pilot with strong results
- Springboard to Opportunities in Jackson, MS created the [Magnolia Mother's Trust](#) providing \$1,000 monthly payments to Black mothers living in public housing with strong results

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Durham City Council, The Durham Mayor's Office, Equity before Birth, Durham Living Wage Project, Durham Workers' Rights Commission, Durham for All

STRATEGY 8.2: Support a broad spectrum of parents, guardians, and caregivers of young children to get and sustain careers that provide a living wage, opportunities for wealth-building, benefits, worker protections, family-friendly policies, and opportunities for career progression.

For this to be possible parents, guardians, and caregivers need to be supported in the completion of their postsecondary and/or vocational education in a holistic way. This includes providing educational opportunities that will:

- 1) have strong alignment with available high quality jobs that pay a living wage and offer benefits, security, predictable scheduling, and worker protections*
- 2) provide free or subsidized transportation, child care and other resources to make educational opportunities accessible.*

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

- Identify careers and jobs that pay a living wage, provide benefits, security, predictable scheduling, transportation, child care, and other resources to make educational opportunities accessible
- Identify workforce development organizations and initiatives; understand what careers they are working to recruit for; identify and address barriers to participation for families with young children; and explore opportunities to connect

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

- Build connections with postsecondary institutions and workforce development groups to address barriers to continuing education for parents with young children.

<p>families with young children to these programs through early childhood organizations.</p>	
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An increase in attendance at local postsecondary institutions by low- and middle-income parents ● An increase in local wages for working families ● A list that inventories employers who have expressed interest in supporting their employees in completing educational programs ● Engagement in conversation by local businesses and other workforce development-related groups around increasing educational opportunities through holistic support systems. 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Durham Tech Student Parent Success Network ● Partnerships between NCWorks and Durham workforce-focused nonprofits ● StepUp Durham offers free employment readiness training, personalized job coaching, employer referrals, and supportive services to job seekers. ● Ascend at the Aspen Institute is building national networks and contributing to research in the area of family economic security via their two initiatives, Family Prosperity and Postsecondary Success for Parents 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent advocates enrolled in Durham Tech like Lashay Richards, local postsecondary institutions like Durham Tech, NCWorks and the Durham Workforce Development Board, City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development, StepUp Durham, H.E.A.R.T.S., alumni networks, local entrepreneurs and businesses, and other workforce development groups and bridging connectors in this space. 	

STRATEGY 8.3: Make more equitable entrepreneurial and small business investments to diversify the power to shape culture.

We must advocate for private and public investors to make more equitable entrepreneurial and small business investments, and change inequities in land and space ownership. In doing so we diversify who has the opportunity (i.e. the freedom and power) to shape our communities. One

way to do this is to invest in Black and Brown entrepreneurs and provide more opportunities for land and space ownership by these groups.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)	LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Link early childhood advocates and parents of young children with advocacy efforts at the local and state level that focus on equitable economic development and investment practices; make the early childhood case for these practices. With those partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect with investors who are investing equitably in other cities to persuade them to invest equitably in Durham. ○ Connect with investors who are already investing in Durham to invest equitably in Durham. ○ Connect with local university business schools to determine who those investors are. ○ Identify funds and organizations to help support cohorts of people prepared to take advantage of the opportunity to invest in real estate (training and resources) and own land/space. ○ Collect the following data: Number and location of Black- and Brown-owned businesses; whether or not they own their space; the extent to which they have been able to build intergenerational wealth.
MEASURING PROGRESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An increase in the number of BIPOC-owned businesses ● An increase in BIPOC land or real estate ownership ● Engagement and partnerships happening between local and out-of-state investors and early childhood advocates and community members 	
BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equitable Economic Advance Collaborative's Thriving Community Fund is supporting Black and Brown owners of food businesses with grants and network-building during COVID ● Shared Equity in Economic Development Program (SEED) ● NC Idea's Black Entrepreneurship Council ● NC Institute of Minority Economic Development 	

- North Carolina Central University and their Business School's Entrepreneur Lab at American Underground
- Pandemic partnership between Duke University, Durham City, County and others for the [Small Business Recovery Fund](#)

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- W.A.R.4Life, NC IDEA, Communities in Partnership, Equitable Economic Advancement Collaborative, Small Business Technology Development Center-Durham affiliate at American Underground and run by North Carolina Central University (NCCU), Helius Foundation, Durham Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Officers at City and County, NC Child, NC Justice Center

Recommendation 9:

Promote Access to Safe, Stable, Affordable, and Healthy Housing for Families with Young Children

The Strategies to Implement This Recommendation

STRATEGY 9.1: Help families with young children prevent evictions and foreclosures including families who are in need of housing support but who are not typically eligible for public assistance.

STRATEGY 9.2: Preserve and expand safe, secure and affordable rental housing. Safe, stable housing leads to improved outcomes for children.

STRATEGY 9.3: Prioritize families with young children for safe emergency shelter and ensure that young children and families are connected with trauma-informed, culturally, developmentally-, and age-appropriate supports.

Why this Recommendation is Important to Our Community

Overview

Parents and caregivers feel Durham needs more safe, accessible, and affordable housing and greater support for young families experiencing homelessness. Parents and families expressed challenges related to deciding between child care and rent. About 16 percent of Durham children ages 0-8 live in a home with housing costs over 50 percent of their income, indicating that they are severely rent-burdened.ⁱⁱⁱ One major factor contributing to the affordability crisis and displacement of Durham families is gentrification. Many Durham neighborhoods that are adjacent to downtown have been historically or more recently been home to Black and Brown families and to families with low to moderate incomes, including Walltown, Lyon Park, Old East Durham, Southside, and more. These neighborhoods have seen more white families and families with higher incomes move in, property values rise, causing displacement of lower income and residents of color.

Durham County has the highest rate of eviction filings among North Carolina's 10 largest counties. While homelessness decreased in North Carolina and nationwide from 2011-2015, it increased 25 percent in Durham.^{iv}

These figures disproportionately impact families and children of color and are historically rooted in oppressive policies and practices like government-sponsored land seizure and redistribution, red-lining, blockbusting, urban renewal, and disparities in access to the GI Bill.^{vi} Nearly half of Black respondents surveyed for the ECAP making below \$50,000 needed housing assistance and those in public housing often cited unkempt conditions with infrequent and

inconsiderate maintenance. Children of color and children from families with low incomes are also more likely to live in polluted communities with a higher risk of lead exposure.^{vii}

Community Voices

"There is no Durham agency that enforces lead safety in homes with children." - ECAP participant

"I think stable, safe, affordable and healthy housing is important because it's important to have a good house so you don't get hurt or have problems with your house. It's also hard to buy or pay rent for housing." - 7th grader in a Durham Charter School

"Racism affects ability to get accepted for housing because gentrification causes them to keep us out of areas." - Durham parent

"People deserve a better place to live than neighborhoods that have mold, are unkempt, violent. This breeds violence and negativity." - Durham parent

"Maintenance is an issue with Durham housing authority. Our toilet backed up at the same time and there was feces in the tub. I had to advocate for myself or it would've been that way for a week. Maintenance said, 'Be thankful your sink works.'" - Durham parent

Voices of the Durham ECAP Action Planning Team Who Worked on this Recommendation

"Quality, safe affordable housing for parents with children should not only be a priority in our community, it should also be a right. A parent should not have to worry about the affordability and the safety of the homes they are raising their children in. Parents should not have to worry about eviction proceedings, programs should be established to address this. And should parents find themselves without a home, safe trauma-informed emergency housing (shelters) for families with children should be provided immediately. Stable, quality housing at truly affordable rates will allow families with young children better educational, employment and health outcomes.

As Durham continues to grow it appears that our community is investing and appealing more to people who have not lived in our City or who have medium to high incomes (household income greater than \$50,000). Parents who have raised their children from birth here can no longer afford to do so, they have been devalued and are being pushed out. Affordable housing is almost non-existent and there are not enough family shelters to address all of the families with young children experiencing homelessness.

This topic is very important because there are parents struggling with young kids and there are so many challenges accessing affordable child care. Single parents in our communities have some of the greatest challenges, child care is not affordable and parents have to make a decision to spend all of their income on childcare or rent. We were trying to focus on very low income renters for young families for this action plan—home ownership is important and we believe efforts should be made to increase access, but most people rent and home ownership is often less attainable for these families. However there are other immediate and necessary things such as emergency shelter, eviction support, good quality affordable housing, and

making sure it is safe and in safe neighborhoods. These efforts should continue to be our priorities in Durham, for young families of low wealth." - *Housing Action Planning Team*

The Action Plans

<p>STRATEGY 9.1: Help families with young children prevent evictions and foreclosures including families who are in need of housing support but who are not typically eligible for public assistance.</p>	
<p><i>Families should be able to maintain housing with support from the community. We know that housing instability is a major stressor and causes negative impacts on brain development in young children.</i></p>	
<p>SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)</p>	<p>LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build additional capacity for organizations such as Reinvestment Partners and the Eviction Diversion Program to educate homeowners on their rights and manage finances to retain their current housing through additional programming or staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase funding for Durham Social Services and Legal Aid specially targeted to prevent evictions (Eviction Diversion Program and Emergency Funds for Housing). ● If evictions are necessary, establish policies to convert an eviction status on their housing report as a voluntary move out and avoid loss of housing subsidies. ● Establish local vouchers for housing (outside of the federal voucher program) which will help avoid long wait lists and pay landlords at a much faster rate.
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fewer annual eviction filings in Durham County Court as well as more housing subsidies and units for families at or below 30 to 60% Area Median Income 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Durham Eviction Diversion program that has been working to decrease the number of families being evicted from their homes since 2017 ● Durham's City Council continues to approve funding for the Eviction Diversion program ● Reinvestment Partners has housing counselors that work with families to understand their financial options for finding, buying, and retaining their homes 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	

- Eviction Diversion (Durham County Social Services) and Legal Aid, Housing New Hope, Durham Housing Authority, Community Empowerment Fund, Reinvestment Partners, Durham Disrupted

STRATEGY 9.2: Preserve and expand safe, secure and affordable rental housing. Safe, stable housing leads to improved outcomes for children.

Safe, stable housing is critical during early childhood to promote healthy brain development.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)	LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a clear set of housing safety and affordability standards for landlords. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review and update current housing inspection guidelines for units/landlords receiving subsidies. ○ Ensure landlords have vacant units inspected prior to putting unit up for rent and annually. ○ Establish guidelines for landlords receiving subsidies to complete repairs by a certain time (to prevent loss of subsidies for families waiting on units to be inspected). ● Renew funding for the Community Empowerment Fund to continue the Landlord Engagement Coordinator position to continue encouraging landlords to rent to lower-income families and adhere to housing standards. ● Begin a conversation with City and County officials about criteria for approving new housing development from developers and assessing any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prevent new housing development unless developers commit to developing affordable housing (note - City is giving infrastructure and not requiring affordable housing). ● Create new housing development criteria for large developers to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A requirement that companies establishing themselves in Durham ensure a portion of their proceeds are invested in Durham and specifically supporting families with low incomes. ○ A guarantee that they will include affordable housing family units for families at/below 30 or 60% AMI. ● Create incentives and supports, like low-cost loans and land banking with robust community oversight, for community-based organizations interested in developing affordable housing. ● Build capacity of organizations currently educating and supporting vulnerable families, especially undocumented

<p>barriers to becoming a housing inspector to increase inspections throughout the city.</p>	<p>families, with understanding their rights and advocating for repairs.</p>
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decreased number of children reporting lead poisoning ● An increase in number of qualified housing inspectors ● Guidelines established for landlords renting to low-income tenants and certificates being awarded to landlords for passing annual inspection 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The City of Durham's Comprehensive Plan includes affordable housing goals that align with this strategy; we can see the City's progress on affordable rental housing goals here ● There is an Affordable Housing Bond and an implementation committee that includes some community members ● The Community Empowerment Fund's Landlord Engagement Coordinator position encourages landlords to rent to lower-income families ● The Fair Housing Project through Legal Aid of North Carolina ● Communities in Partnership has developed community-owned and operated affordable rental housing 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local safe housing advocates like Sheryl Smith, Lorisa Seibel, and Lenora Smith, Durham Housing Authority, CASA, Reinvestment Partners, PEACH, Durham Community Land Trust, City Housing Code Inspections, El Centro, City Council, County Commissioners, Communities in Partnership 	

<p>STRATEGY 9.3: Prioritize families with young children for safe emergency shelter and ensure that young children and families are connected with trauma-informed, culturally, developmentally-, and age-appropriate interventions.</p>	
<p><i>Establishing shelter for unhoused families with children will help to decrease the negative impact of housing instability.</i></p>	
<p>SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)</p>	<p>LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that any family with young children is placed at the top of the homeless prioritization list for shelter. ● Define trauma-informed, culturally affirming, and developmentally-appropriate supports within the context of homelessness and shelter stays for Durham County children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure all newly constructed and existing shelters housing families with young children integrate trauma-informed, culturally affirming, and developmentally-appropriate supports. Tailor the Child Care Services Association tool for homeless shelters to include culturally affirming and trauma-informed specifically for Durham County.^{viii} ● Provide non-English speaking families support through services in a language they understand or ensure they have access to culturally affirming interpretation services. ● Invest more City and County funds into emergency shelters serving families with young children to provide both shelter and programmatic support.
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A decrease in the waitlist for families with children who are experiencing homelessness and seeking shelter 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The organizations in Durham already providing emergency shelter, including the Families Moving Forward model that offers trauma-informed services and Durham Public Schools Office of Transitional Services ● The Child Care Services Association's tool for homeless shelters to provide positive environments 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City Council, County Commissioners, Community Development, NC Council to End Homelessness, Families Moving Forward, Durham Public Schools, Hacia La Paz Familiar, Durham Crisis Response Center, Durham Rescue Mission, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Urban Ministries of Durham, CAARE The Healing Center, Housing for New Hope, Entry Point Durham 	

Additional Strategies to Consider in Future Planning

- Promote long-term affordability and home ownership in historically Black and low-wealth neighborhoods

Recommendation 10: Food Security

Ensure Families with Young Children Have Access to Enough Affordable, Culturally-Relevant, Healthy Food Every Day

The Strategies to Implement This Recommendation

STRATEGY 10.1: Make enrollment in supplemental food and nutrition benefits programs, especially during times of disaster and recovery, easier and more flexible for eligible families with small children.

STRATEGY 10.2: Expand access to healthy, culturally relevant food to all families with young children who need it, focused on addressing racial injustices in our food system.

STRATEGY 10.3: Increase access to healthy and culturally relevant foods in early learning and Pre-K-3rd grade settings.

Why this Recommendation is Important to Our Community

Overview

Having healthy, nutritious, culturally relevant food is vital for all human beings and a community obligation, yet not all families and children in Durham have sufficient, healthy and nutritious foods. As of 2019, **17.6%** of children under age 17 in Durham faced food insecurity.^{ix} We know that food insecurity has only worsened as a result of the pandemic and resulting family economic insecurity.

Families shared the stigma associated with accessing food supports. Experiencing food insecurity is inherently stressful for families, and can be especially traumatic when families are not treated with dignity and respect when applying for SNAP benefits, visiting a food pantry, or accessing other types of food support.

There are racial inequities at all levels of our food system that are deeply rooted in the founding of this country—a founding which depended on land theft, indigenous genocide, and forced labor of enslaved African people. The resulting distribution of land, resources and capital has historically determined who has access to healthy, nutritious food and who decides what food is grown and which neighborhoods have access.^{xxi}

While it is important to ensure that children have access to healthy, culturally relevant food (as defined by each community) in the short-term, it is also critical to address the underlying root causes that lead to injustices in our food system. Access to healthy, culturally relevant food is wrapped up in land ownership, economic and political autonomy and changes to our food system will be required to see sustainable change in this area.

Community Voices

"[The administrative staff enrolling us for SNAP] don't listen to us. When we ask questions they say things like, 'these are not my guidelines', 'I just work here.'" - Durham parent

"The staff were rude when I went to the food bank and I won't go back." - Durham parent

"I would also like some type of cooking class for mother's on how to prepare healthy fun meals for toddlers. I'm sure all this is available somewhere in Durham, but not for poverty stricken at risk youth, or single Mother's etc." - Durham parent

"Let's be honest most kids do not eat or do not want their lunch food because of what's in it. They give you bad quality of food. We know that kids have developing brains and all that stuff. It's better if we start in the beginning with elementary kids. So that once they grow by then when they become adults they already have strong, healthy minds and have more access to everything and probably help their own communities as well." - 9th grader in Durham Public Schools

"Provide more nutritious food options in school meals & snacks." - Durham parent

Voices of the Durham ECAP Action Planning Team Who Worked on this Recommendation

"The ECAP Food Security Action Planning team believes having sufficient, healthy and nutritious foods is vital for all human beings. In fact, it is a human right! The team sees a need for easier food access on multiple racial, cultural, and socioeconomic levels. Some members of the group have lived experience with food insecurity and had to work incredibly hard to navigate the system and feed their own family, including putting food on the table for young children. Parent and community feedback the group received showed that unfortunately, this is a reality for countless families in Durham who endure similar challenges on a daily basis.

An emphasis throughout discussions was the sense of personal dignity that every family and parent deserves regardless of their background or situation. People need to be treated with dignity and respect while applying for SNAP benefits and other food resource assistance. Especially since having healthy and nutritious foods is a community obligation.

Core to this section of the plan is the value of being human. This was uplifted as the backbone since we all have the right to eat healthy and have nutritious, culturally relevant food on the table. The team brought a sense of knowing that seeking food is a difficult and a stressful time for families from their collective experiences and the shared feedback of the community. They also brought a sense of empathy and understanding around the process of utilizing food assistance resources."

- Food Security Action Planning Team

The Action Plans

<p>STRATEGY 10.1: Make enrollment in supplemental food and nutrition benefits programs, especially during times of disaster and recovery, easier and more flexible for eligible families with small children.</p>	
<p><i>More resources, information and enrollment opportunities where these families are (in neighborhoods, at child care sites, at healthcare providers, etc.) is critical. Supporting more community leaders and community health workers in providing application and language support in a cultural context that is appropriate for each family is also needed.</i></p>	
SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)	LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure the peer navigators (strategy 3.1) and the one-stop locations (strategy 3.2) can support parents in enrollment for supplemental food and nutrition benefits programs. ● Build more trusted community liaisons that are bilingual and representative of the communities they serve through coordination with the ECAP resource navigation and language justice teams to ensure food resources are accessible regardless of technology or transport options (strategy 5.2). ● Work with Durham Social Services to better understand the SNAP enrollment process and the percentage of applications that are approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invest in recruitment and training for more bilingual and bicultural SNAP Benefits Outreach Coordinators to work directly with child care centers, including Durham PreK and Head Start sites, and neighborhoods. ● Expand the outreach work that the Durham County Department of Public Health, Food Bank, and other Durham County or community agencies are doing through programs such as Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education program's in adult education and healthy environments.
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conversations about funding additional bilingual and bicultural outreach workers in the food space will increase ● Comprehensive data will be provided that show in how many people are accessing SNAP and WIC benefits in Durham on a monthly basis ● That data will be broken down into different categories, including families with young children, to help us understand our baseline 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	

- The work of the language justice and resource awareness ECAP teams
- The Food Bank has [Benefits Outreach Coordinators](#)
- COVID supplemental food and nutrition efforts like Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) that is provided through school robocall and on the DPS website in English and Spanish
- Food Security Task Force & [Durham County Cooperative Extension](#) have been coordinating emergency food response for children
- [Durham County's Double Bucks Program](#) for SNAP and WIC recipients at Durham Farmers Markets

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Durham County Social Services (DSS), Durham County Health Department, Food Security Task Force, Durham County and Cooperative Extension, Food Bank, Durham Public Schools

STRATEGY 10.2: Expand access to healthy, culturally relevant food to all families with young children who need it, focused on addressing racial injustices in our food system.

While there are many food pantries and food distributions throughout Durham to support families experiencing food insecurity, parents and communities shared that these foods are not always culturally relevant and do not address the deeper issues causing food insecurity to begin with.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

- Work with community-rooted organizations¹ to host listening sessions in neighborhoods most impacted by food apartheid. Community members from neighborhoods most impacted by food insecurity should determine a definition of healthy, nutritious, and culturally relevant for those

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

- Expand county level incentives to bring healthy, culturally relevant retail and corner stores into communities that lack easy, pedestrian access (ideally owned and operated by the community).
- Strengthen county level policy and programming that supports emergency food organizations' understanding of and capacity to provide, healthy, culturally

¹ As defined by [Communities in Partnership](#), "Formal and informal groups that are owned, run, and operated by the people that live and work within their own communities. These organizations are not only run by the most impacted within the community context but they are directly accountable to their neighbors and members. They can operate as a non-profit, for-profit, faith community or other organized formal or informal community group. The main identifier is that the board, staff, and mission and vision were created and owned by those living within the community they are focusing their work on or have been directly impacted by the area or context in which they serve." (Source: Camryn Smith, edited by Niasha Frey, MPH)

<p>neighborhoods to use to measure progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expand the reach of community-rooted organizations by partnering with Durham agencies to get mobile farmer's markets, food boxes, and nutritious, culturally relevant cooked food into neighborhoods with low access to healthy food choices. 	<p>relevant foods to all families with young children who need it.</p>
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A definition of healthy, nutritious and culturally relevant will be created by and reflects the communities most in need of food assistance ● A process that has a feedback loop will be developed to ensure our definitions and data are measuring the most critical outcomes rather than generalizing or causing more harm ● Data on what food products grocery stores have sold throughout different areas of Durham County will be available to compare the differences in health, nutrition and cultural relevance by area 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Durham Racial Equity Task Force food recommendations included improving health food availability and access ● Durham Area Food Resources Locator tool ● Communities in Partnership work to create a food coop, food boxes, and build relationships and capacity with Black farmers ● Partnership for a Healthy Durham Action Plan for Obesity, Diabetes & Food Access Goal: "All residents have access to fresh and healthy foods" ● Reinvestment Partners Produce Prescriptions ● PORCH-Durham has been providing foods to children across Durham County, through Durham Public Schools, DPS Learning Centers, EAT NC, mobile markets, and community food distributions and pantries ● Farmer Foodshare Partnership for a Healthy Durham Action Plan for Obesity, Diabetes & Food Access has an objective to "Shift the culture and narrative around DPS school meals to be more positive and encourage purchase and consumption" ● Work of all the organizations listed below 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	

- Communities in Partnership, Tall Grass Food Box, Farmer Foodshare, FeedDurham NC, Durham County, Durham County Health Department, Durham County Food Security Taskforce, Food That Fits You (Jasmine Burroughs)

STRATEGY 10.3: Increase access to healthy and culturally relevant foods in early learning and Pre-K-3rd grade settings.

Durham is diverse, yet the food does not always reflect that diversity and is not equitably distributed. This leads to a lower comfort level for children from diverse cultures who do not identify with the food served at school and childcare sites. Changing the food that is included in the menu will lead to all children feeling like they belong and will lead to a willingness to try new foods from more children and staff.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

- Work with community and implementation partners to define what healthy and culturally relevant looks like in early learning and Pre-K-3rd grade settings.
- Create more opportunities for service through programs like CCSA's Meal Services (expand services and delivery).
- Have a series of conversations with groups focused on food and child care and school settings (like the Durham Farm to Early Childhood Education Collaborative) to identify current gaps and opportunities to expand on.

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

- Connect early education providers with diverse nutritionists, staff and partners throughout the food chain to procure and produce healthy, culturally relevant menus and a curriculum that is research-backed and community vetted.
- Build capacity for community organizations providing menu development and food growing experiences in early learning and Pre-K-3rd grade settings.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- An increase in the number of childcare centers, family child care homes and Pre-K-3rd grade schools that adopt broader menu choices to reflect the cultural diversity of Durham
- Access to growing kits with seeds for more families
- More child care sites creating gardens

BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK

- [Durham Farm to Early Care and Education Collaborative](#)
- [we are](#) and [EPIC's](#) partnership focused on healthy racial identity development and food

justice in early care and education

- The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (CENC) has the [Weekend Power Pack Program](#)
- [EAT NC](#) is providing free meal deliveries to all children in partnership with [DPS](#) aged 0-18 through schools, bus stops, community resource centers, and some apartment communities
- [Food Insight Group](#) is working on the Eat NC project and other school-partnership projects building a just, equitable and resilient food system
- [spoonFULL](#), formerly CCSA Meal Services, can provide high-quality meals for child care facilities
- [SEEDS Farm](#) is an urban garden and kitchen classroom in the heart of Durham that develops the capacity of young people to respect life, the earth, and each other through growing, cooking, and sharing food
- [The Hub Farm](#) seeks to improve the academic achievement and well-being of students in Durham Public Schools
- Inter-Faith Food Shuttle:
 - [Backpack Buddies](#) provides over 3,000 children weekend meals when free school lunches and breakfasts are not provided
 - The [Mobile Tastiness Machine](#) serves hot, healthy meals to kids in low-resource neighborhoods during out of school times

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- InterFaith Food Shuttle's Garden's for Everyone Program, Durham Tech and growing kits for families at family child care homes and centers, Farmer Foodshare, Durham's Partnership for Children's partnership with Cooking Matters
- Briggs Avenue Community Garden and Durham Tech partnership (e.g. could expand this model to other communities)
- Durham Farm to ECE Collaborative (e.g. staff who can bring models that have worked in child care settings like Kids Korner Academy and Early Start Academy to model this for other child care settings)
- Farmer Foodshare, Durham Public Schools (DPS), Child Care Services Association (in partnership with the Budget Courier Service, Food Insight Group, and Durham Public School Foundation), parent groups, childcare providers, neighborhood groups, local churches/congregations, Health Department's health educators, nutritionists/dieticians, future Durham Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) youth educator, Refugee Community Partnership; Durham County Cooperative Extension; DPS Hub Farm, SEEDS

Recommendation 11: Family Essential Supplies

Ensure Families Have the Essential Family Supplies Needed to Support Pre- and Post-Partum Health and to Care for Babies and Young Children

The Strategies to Implement This Recommendation

STRATEGY 11.1: Expand the capacity of programs that increase access to essential supplies such as car seats, diapers, beds, clothing, bottles, breast pumps, etc. so that more families who need them will have access to these basic needs items.

STRATEGY 11.2: Align services that increase access to family essential supplies with providers working with families (like health care providers, home visitors, child care providers, and others) to more quickly and more efficiently meet the needs of families.

Why this Recommendation is Important to Our Community

Overview

Family essential supplies such as car seats, diapers, beds, clothing, bottles, and breast pumps are basic needs for families with young children. Provision of these supplies is outside the scope of existing safety net policy programs. As we work further upstream on Recommendation 8: Economic Prosperity, we will reduce family economic insecurity and create opportunities for wealth building, which will ensure that families have the ability to provide for their own basic needs. In the interim, we recognize that families need access to these critical supplies right now.

Caregivers and new parents in Durham emphasized the need for family essential supplies such as car seats, diapers, beds, clothing, bottles, and breast pumps for all families with young children. While Durham has a strong community support system to connect families with supplies, there is not enough funding available to sustainably meet this need. Awareness is also a barrier as there is no centralized place to learn about family essential supplies. Lack of access to these supplies can cause safety issues (like lack of a car seat), issues with accessing services (diapers are almost never provided by child care sites), and can create mental health and stigma issues when parents don't feel able to meet their baby's and toddler's needs for food and diapers.

Provision of these supports must be done with two critical things in mind. The first is avoiding a charity mindset. We believe that access to these supplies is a basic human right. Providing for these supplies is not charity, but correcting inequities in access. Secondly, it is important to build on distribution of these supplies to connect families with additional culturally affirming social supports and broader opportunities for economic security and agency.

Community Voices

"Access to diaper bank for new moms in need." - ECAP participant

"More resources for families of young children that do not qualify for public/government assistance." - ECAP participant

"Can't think of any program that gives food, clothing, shelter on a daily basis. If there's a program they do a poor job of promoting it." - Durham parent

"Need better communication on the information to reach the folks it needs to reach." - Durham parent

Voices of the Durham ECAP Action Planning Team Who Worked on this Recommendation

"Family essential supplies such as car seats, diapers, beds, clothing, bottles, and breast pumps are basic needs for families with young children. Provision of these supplies is outside the scope of existing safety net policy programs. WIC and SNAP do not provide diapers or other non-food items. To participate in our community, families need access to family essential supplies. When families' basic needs are met, they are able to spend more time together in ways that are meaningful for them and less time worrying and feeling stressed about how to meet basic needs for their children.

In our discussion, our team continuously emphasized: that 1) the biggest limitation to increasing access to family essential supplies is funding, 2) it is important to meet families at locations where they already are (e.g. neighborhoods, places where they are already engaged in the community or are accessing other services), and 3) it is important to implement these strategies in concert with other ECAP strategies (e.g. in alignment with the strategies of the Resource Awareness & Service Navigation Team).

Values important to this work include: dignity, quality, reliability, being respectful of families and their needs, integrity."

- Essential Family Supplies Action Planning Team

The Action Plans

STRATEGY 11.1: Expand capacity of programs that increase access to essential supplies such as car seats, diapers, beds, clothing, bottles, breast pumps, etc. so that more families who need them will have access to these basic needs items.

While we work on the underlying challenges of family economic insecurity and family friendly workplace policies, it is essential to support families with the supplies needed to keep their young children healthy.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

- Identify families who have lived experience accessing family essential supplies in the community and lift up their experiences.
- Identify the estimated costs associated with meeting all the diaper needs in Durham County.

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

- Invest in and expand the provision of family essential supplies distributed by organizations like the Diaper Bank of North Carolina, Equity Before Birth, HEARTS, MAAME, and Welcome Baby.
- Advocate for state and federal policies to include funding for family essential supplies.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- A decrease in the number of families with unmet diaper needs and a smaller waitlist.
- Data being collected and shared across programs to measure an increase in the number of families who have received a car seat, bed, crib, clothing, etc.

BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK

- MAAME Inc. does annual community baby showers to provide essential items as well as a giving closet
- Welcome Baby provides free clothing, car seats, diapers and other essential family supplies for families with children 0-5
- Equity Before Birth has started providing essential baby needs like diapers, infant clothing, bottles, baby formula, breastfeeding supplies, baby food, car seats, cribs and strollers
- The Diaper Bank distributes hygiene products via partner organizations (healthcare providers, home visitors, child care providers, etc.)
- [H.E.A.R.T.S](#) helps young parents provide for their little ones and has a children's closet for teen moms and dads who need supplies

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Diaper Bank of North Carolina, Equity Before Birth, Welcome Baby, H.E.A.R.T.S., MAAME, Pregnancy Support Services, Faith Partners (Urban Ministries of Durham, etc.)

STRATEGY 11.2: Align services that increase access to family essential supplies with providers working with families (like health care providers, home visitors, child care providers, and others) to more quickly and more efficiently meet the needs of families.

Break down barriers to communication across silos to ensure that all family- and child- serving programs can connect families to organizations who distribute family essential supplies.

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

- Support community meetings where service providers are already convening like the Community Advisory Board co-hosted by Family Connects Durham, Healthy Families Durham, and the Diaper Bank of North Carolina, as well as the creation of the digital resource guide, Nurturing Durham, created by the Durham Early Childhood Mental Health Task Force.
- Explore opportunities to ensure that all birthing people in Durham have knowledge about where to access family essential supplies before or by the time they leave the hospital.
- Facilitate the distribution of family essential supplies when families are engaging with community health workers / another organization or accessing information about resources (see Recommendation 3, 'Resource Awareness and Service Navigation').

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

- Invest in and expand the provision of family essential supplies distributed by organizations like the Diaper Bank of North Carolina, Equity Before Birth, and Welcome Baby so that they may work with more service providers in the community.
- Increase capacity of the Diaper Bank of North Carolina's mobile diaper bank so that families can receive access to supplies in their neighborhoods.
- Increase the number of partnerships between organizations that provide in-home services and organizations that provide family essential supplies in an effort to eliminate transportation barriers for families.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- An increase in the number of Durham families whose basic needs of family essential supplies are met through tracking the number of families served

- An increase in the number of new partnerships between organizations procuring and distributing family essential supplies

BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK

- All the community-rooted organizations mentioned in the first strategy.
- [Community resource lists](#) for things like clothing, furniture, etc. through partners like Urban Ministries of Durham and [Families Moving Forward](#) who publish these lists.
- Online groups that parents can utilize to swap or share essential items to get the word out and reach more people such as Bull City Shares and Durham Community Swapping

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- The Diaper Bank of North Carolina and their community partner agencies; pediatricians; Equity Before Birth; MAAME; H.E.A.R.T.S.; Urban Ministries of Durham; Families Moving Forward; Family Connects Durham; Healthy Families Durham; Welcome Baby; the 'Resource Awareness & Service Navigation' ECAP Planning Team; the many community task forces, advisory boards, and workgroups who engage Durham organizations who work with families with young children

Recommendation 12: Provide Reliable, Safe and Affordable Transportation to Early Childhood Services

The Strategies to Implement This Recommendation

STRATEGY 12.1: Ensure the interests of parents and families with young children are represented in city, county, and regional transportation planning and decision-making.

STRATEGY 12.2: Gather rider data to advocate for bus stops and bus routes that are closer to child care providers, medical facilities, and other commonly visited early childhood services.

STRATEGY 12.3: Explore options for microtransit to fill in the gaps in public transportation for families with young children.

Why this Recommendation is Important to Our Community

Overview

Parents and families repeatedly shared that transportation is a major barrier to accessing services like healthcare for themselves and their children and child care so they can go to work. Recent data reveal that 16.1% of Durham BIPOC households do not own a vehicle and only 28% of residents are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the ease of travel by bus.

Many families expressed challenges with transportation to child care homes and centers. Only 12.6% of Family Child Care Homes in Durham offer transportation and only 7.5% of centers offer transportation.^{xii}

Research suggests that cities prioritize “15-minute (or less) neighborhoods for babies” as an important strategy to shorten distances to key early childhood services and support healthy development for our youngest residents.^{xiii}

Community Voices

"The afterschool programs and activities that are available are never at times compatible with my work schedule. I can't take them there." - Durham parent

"In our Hispanic culture, in our home countries, it is our families who help us raise our children. When my kids were little I paid a friend to take care of them. I had to wait for a lottery pick to be assigned (for E/HS). When I did (finally hear about being placed in a center), I had to choose between continuing to work and my child's education because of my job.

There was no transportation available (to or from the center/provided by the center). I decided to accept the spot and take my child to school." - Durham parent

"Now my only concern is that if you don't have a vehicle none of the previous mentioned attractions are easily accessible. (Parks, museum of life in science, YMCA etc)." - Durham parent

"Babies are not safe on the bus + have to have a car seat in an Uber or Lyft => could one be integrated into buses?" - Transit Plan Community Listening Session

"The neighborhood I live in is dangerous and there is a section with no sidewalk or grass, so I have to run in the street pushing my daughter in a stroller to get to the bus stop." - Durham parent through the Durham Transit Equity Campaign

Voices of the Durham ECAP Action Planning Team Who Worked on this Recommendation

"This is an equity issue. We have great resources and programs, but the lack of transportation prevents families from engaging. Those are barriers that we need to overcome and breakthrough by providing access to safe and reliable transportation."

- Transportation Action Planning Team

The Action Plans

STRATEGY 12.1: Ensure the interests of parents and families with young children are represented in city, county, and regional transportation planning and decision-making.

With the ongoing process to update the Durham County Transit plan, there is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine an improved public transit system in Durham. With the demise of the light rail project in 2019, there are now tens of millions of dollars of new projects available annually. The Durham Transit Plan Update will detail how those funds should be invested. We want to ensure that the needs of families with young children in Durham are prioritized in the Transit Plan.

The types of needs our families expressed include:

- *Upgrading infrastructure for accessible transportation for babies, toddlers, and young children*
- *Advocating for City Council to continue free GoDurham service*
- *Prioritizing safe sidewalks*
- *Integrating opportunities for learning into public transportation (e.g. [playful learning](#) at bus stops, [mobile libraries](#), etc.)^{xiv}*

SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)

LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with the Durham Transit Team to organize a listening session with parents and families of young children across Durham during the next round of stakeholder listening to evaluate transit scenarios and inform public decision-making. ● Share key lessons from that session with the Transit Equity Campaign so they can amplify the needs of families with young children in their advocacy efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore opportunities to represent the interests of families with young children on the Go Triangle's Transportation Advisory Committee. ● If the City and GoTriangle continue monthly public meetings at Durham Station after the plan update, ensure there is early childhood representation at those monthly meetings.
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empowered and organized parents and caregivers of young children whose priorities are represented in transit decision-making 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transit Community Ambassadors program established for the Transit Plan Update ● Transit Equity Campaign 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families of young children, Transit Equity Campaign, County, City, GoTriangle, The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 	

<p>STRATEGY 12.2: Gather rider data to advocate for bus stops and bus routes that are closer to child care providers, medical facilities, and other commonly visited early childhood services.</p>	
<p><i>Bus routes in Durham do not always provide convenient, efficient transportation to early childhood services like child care providers and medical facilities. The Transit Plan Update will be making recommendations for additional bus routes, but we do not have enough information at this time about where families are struggling to get to and which bus routes to adjust. The first step is to gather data to inform planning.</i></p>	
<p>SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)</p>	<p>LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore options to gather data about the transportation needs for families with young children (e.g. support, compensate and train parent researchers to gather parent and caregivers' transit stories and/or engage a Master's student or team conduct a public transportation needs assessment for families with young children in Durham). ● Identify the data that would be most helpful to inform public transportation planning (e.g. a spatial analysis of where child care providers are located and how that maps to the existing bus routes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring findings and recommendations to inform public transportation planning.
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easy access to commonly visited early childhood services on public transportation ● Decreased travel time to early childhood transportation services 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transit Plan Update data ● Transit Equity Campaign transit stories ● Neighborhood Compass public data visualizations ● There are many other cities and contexts to learn from, including Santiago, Chile which collects data to better understand where women move through the city. 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of North Carolina (UNC), Duke, North Carolina Central University (NCCU), City, County, Durham Neighborhood Compass, medical facilities 	

STRATEGY 12.3: Explore options for microtransit to fill in the gaps in public transportation for families with young children.

Where parents and caregivers report transportation barriers to get themselves and/or their children to early childhood services, Durham should explore opportunities to provide microtransit options like minibusses, vans, and ridesharing. "Microtransit" refers to small-scale, on-demand

<p><i>transit services that can offer fixed routes and schedules, as well as flexible routes and on-demand scheduling.^{xv}</i></p>	
<p>SHORT-TERM ACTION STEPS (1-2 years)</p>	<p>LONG-TERM ACTION STEPS (2+ years)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explore opportunities to subsidize funding for child care providers and before- and after-school care and activities to provide safe transportation for children. ● Engage families with young children to take the survey and participate in GoDurham's shared ride service pilot for East Durham.^{xvi} ● Invest in and expand transportation services that exist for pregnant women (e.g. Equity Before Birth offers transportation to healthcare appointments for its participating moms). 	<p>Use findings from the data gathered in the previous strategy to inform needs and microtransit solutions. Solutions to explore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City or County subsidizing rideshare trips for families with young children (an example to look to is RIDE UNITED NC call center supplying Lyft codes for rides in Durham and Wake County to get vaccines, which could be adapted to support pregnant moms traveling to prenatal appointments, for example).^{xvii} ● County could expand ACCESS van services to include people traveling with babies, toddlers, and young children. <p>Examples to look to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Columbus, OH is piloting a program to connect low-income, pregnant women with on-demand, non-emergency rides.^{xviii} ● São Paulo, Brazil offered pregnant women free vouchers to travel to prenatal appointments.^{xix}
<p>MEASURING PROGRESS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easy, safe, efficient access to commonly visited early childhood services ● Decreased travel time to early childhood transportation services 	
<p>BUILDING OFF EXISTING WORK</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GoDurham's shared ride service pilot ● Programs like Equity Before Birth who are filling in transportation gaps in the community ● RIDE UNITED NC ● Latino Educational Achievement Partnership, as well as some other child care sites, offers bus services to families enrolled in their preschool program 	
<p>POTENTIAL PARTNERS</p>	

- RIDE UNITED NC, MAAME, Equity Before Birth, City, County, GoDurham, GoTriangle, The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

For questions about this report, please contact Bonnie Delaune at bonnie.delaune@dc-nc.org or Cate Elander at celander@dconc.gov.

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