

# Annual Report 2018-2019



Orange County Partnership  
for Young Children

a partner in the  
smart start network







The Orange County Partnership for Young Children was founded as a nonprofit agency in 1993, as the first Smart Start agency in the state.

The mission of the Partnership is to ensure that all young children arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.



# Message from the President of the Board of Directors

It has been a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Partnership for Young Children over the last six years. As I prepare to end my term, I am impressed by how much the organization has accomplished in that time.

We've completed two strategic planning processes, allowing us to be more intentional about our work. We've increased our community engagement and public education about who we are and what we do.

Our Board of Directors now more fully represents the diversity of Orange County, enabling us to identify challenges in our community and think creatively about how to solve them.

Despite Orange County having the highest per-capita income in the state, 28.7% of children live in low-income homes and 18% of children are food-insecure. Extreme disparities exist in our community, and we are playing an active role in addressing them through supporting organizations that meet the needs of children and families who are under-resourced, providing programming that seeks to serve those who have been underserved, and partnering with others to tackle the myriad issues facing our young children.

It has been an honor to support this organization and its great work. I'd like to thank the members of the Board of Directors, past and present, with whom I have had the pleasure of serving. And I'd like to thank the staff members, past and present, for their passion and tireless work to meet the needs of our county's young children.

*Christopher Brook*  
President of the Board of Directors



# Message from the Executive Director

I'm so proud of where our organization is 25 years after being founded as the first Smart Start agency in North Carolina. As a funder, convener, organizer, trainer, and advocate for young children's healthy growth and development, we have made a real difference in preparing children birth to age five for school and future success.

Our community partnerships are strong. Over 140 people joined us for our 25th Anniversary "Birthday Party" in May at the Chapel Hill Community Center. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with fun educational activities and great community connections. This year we brought back our Young Children's Art Contest and Exhibit, collecting over 200 pieces of art from child care centers in Orange County and exhibiting the 15 winning entries in a traveling exhibition celebrating the creativity of our young children.

We continue to grow programmatically. We host the Orange County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, a county-wide effort to develop effective strategies to ensure third grade reading proficiency. The campaign, which is completing its implementation planning stage, includes more than 45 people representing parents, community members, and 21 cross-sector agencies and organizations, and has received designation as a National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading community.

We are also excited to join the Healthy Starts for Infants and Toddlers initiative, expanding our efforts to support nutrition, physical activity, and outdoor learning to children birth to three, as well as the Strengthening Statewide Family Engagement project to develop purposeful engagement strategies and collaborative leadership development opportunities for families.

Transplanting Traditions Community Farm – a program we incubated in 2010 that provides refugee adults and youth access to land, healthy food and agricultural and entrepreneurial opportunities – has now become its own non-profit organization. We are pleased to see this wonderful program grow into its own successful 501(c)3!

Despite the progress we've made, our work remains critically important for the young children of Orange County – perhaps now more than ever. We've grown our capacity to address the most pressing issues facing families with young children in our community. Recognizing that these issues are inexorably bound with systemic inequities and injustice, we are actively using a racial equity lens as a guiding principle in our work.

Count on us to continue our work for the next 25 years – and beyond. We invite you to support us by visiting our website, following us on Facebook, and making a donation today.

*Robin Pulver*  
Executive Director

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children (OCPYC) is dedicated to ensuring that every child in Orange County arrives at school healthy and ready to succeed. We promote young children’s healthy development and school readiness by planning, implementing, and funding a variety of programs that address the critical issues facing young children and their families. Our work falls into three focus areas: **Early Care and Education, Child Health, and Family Support.**



Early Care and  
Education



Child Health



Family Support

## Early Care and Education

**When young children have access to high-quality early care and education programs, it improves their chances of success in kindergarten and beyond.**

The **Child Care Services Association’s Ready Infant Toddler Classroom Initiative (RITC)** works with 4- and 5-star child care centers to improve the quality of services provided in their infant and toddler classrooms through a variety of strategies including consultation, quality improvement and professional development planning, and specialized training. In FY 2018-2019, RITC engaged more than double the number of classrooms and staff as projected, conducting a total of 318 site visits in 20 classrooms at 11 child care centers.

Through OCPYC’s support of the **Orange County Public Library’s Time to Read program**, 301 Storytime-to-Go bags were distributed in 30 classrooms at seven child care centers across Orange County. These bags are loaned to participating child care providers to assist in the incorporation of language development and literacy strategies into the classroom, and include age-appropriate books, manipulatives, games, songs, and/or puppets.

*“One teacher in particular this year has been dedicated to using the Storytime-to-Go thematic bags as part of her daily literacy activities. By using the bags she has increased the diversity of literacy activities in her classroom. She has taken the ideas from the bags and created her own flannel pieces and interactive activities. The bags have become a crucial part of her planning process and the children in her classroom are engaged and excited about receiving new books, music, and activities with each new bag.”*

*--Stephanie Knop, Orange County Public Library*

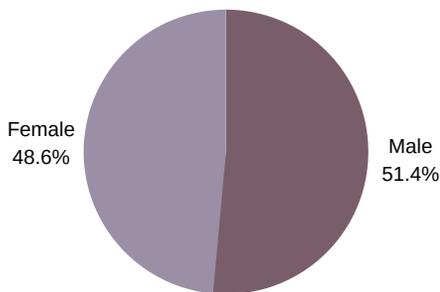
The **OCPYC Smart Start Child Care Subsidy Program** helps families access high-quality child care by assisting with child care tuition costs. Eligible families receive a voucher through the Orange County Department of Social Services, and tuition funds are paid directly to the child care program. Children receiving a Smart Start subsidy must enroll in child care centers or homes with a 4- or 5-star rating.

**OCPYC Smart Start Subsidy Enhancements** are also provided to 4- and 5-star child care facilities participating in Smart Start-funded activities to increase the quality of their program. These enhanced reimbursement rates are also provided on behalf of children receiving assistance through the Orange County Department of Social Services.

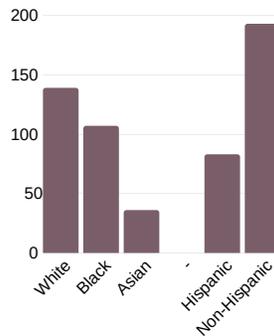
In addition to the Smart Start subsidy funds, OCPYC provides financial and program oversight, as well as coaching and technical assistance, for the **NC Pre-K program**. NC Pre-K is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-olds. The program requirements are built on the premise that to be successful academically in school, children need to be prepared in all five of the developmental domains: Approaches to Play and Learning, Emotional and Social Development, Health and Physical Development, Language Development and Communication, and Cognitive Development.

## NC Pre-K 276 children served in FY 2018-2019

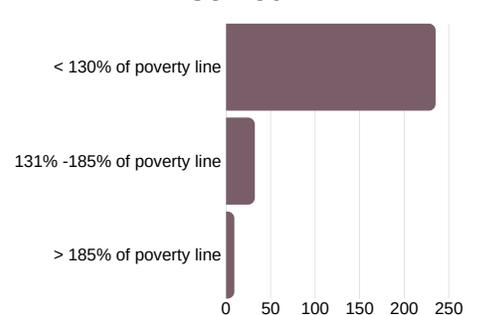
Gender of children served



Race/ethnicity of children served



Income level of children served



Learning about the world through high-quality Early Care and Education.

# Child Health



**Children need to be healthy in order to grow and learn. OCPYC-funded programs support child health holistically, recognizing that many different factors contribute to overall health.**

In FY 2018-2019, **OCPYC's Growing Up Healthy Initiative** worked with seven child care centers to improve and maintain child nutrition, physical activity and outdoor learning environments. Using the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAPSACC), center directors created and implemented action plans that benefitted 560 children with a healthier child care environment.

Growing Up Healthy trained 88 teachers from 23 child care programs through various workshops on increasing physical activity, improving gardening skills, and using STEM in the classroom and outdoor learning environment. Follow-up technical assistance helped teachers bring their learning into the classroom.

Growing Up Healthy also engaged in the statewide Farm to Early Care and Education Collaborative, with two child care programs receiving training and support for gardening, introducing local fresh foods on their menus, and helping children and families understand where and how food is grown and how to be healthier eaters as a result.

Through OCPYC's support of the **Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project's Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Program**, training and technical assistance was provided to eleven primary care practices in Orange County to facilitate the identification of children who may benefit from early intervention services.

OCPYC's support of the **Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project's KidSCOPE Hispanic Outreach Program** helps provide critical, culturally appropriate evidence-based mental health therapy to Spanish-speaking children ages birth to five and their families in Orange County.

**"A mother from Mexico was referred to us due to the distress she experienced in parenting her two-year-old child. When I first met with this mom she would describe 'normal behaviors' from her child as 'misbehaving' that her child did on purpose. Services provided to this mom have helped her to understand about child development and have realistic expectations about her child. Most importantly, mom has become aware of how her own upbringing has played a role in her parenting and has made a conscious decision to learn more appropriate ways to parent her child."**

*--Sofia Moyano-Kleckner, Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project's KidSCOPE Hispanic Outreach Program*

## Family Support

**We know that the best way to support children ages birth through five is to support their families. Well-supported families are connected to the people, resources, and tools they need to raise healthy, happy children.**

With OCPYC's support in FY 2018-2019, 17 parents/caregivers completed the **Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project's KidSCOPE Incredible Years Toddler Parenting Education Program** in English, and seven completed the program in Spanish. This includes 20 parents/caregivers who had never participated in the program before.

In FY 2018-2019, with OCPYC's support, 53 parents/caregivers – nearly twice as many as projected – were able to participate in the **Orange County Department of Social Services' Community Response Program (CRP)**. CRP provides family-centered services for Orange County families with children birth to five who have been referred to Child Protective Services with reports closed or screened out at intake and who want further assistance.

CRP engages families for up to 6 months through home visits focused on building protective factors to reduce risk factors that can lead to further CPS involvement, increasing positive parenting practices, and encouraging healthy child development.

“The support of the OCPYC was vital to the success of the first Triple P Parenting Group this fall. We serve families who have recently been involved with Child Protective Services with Orange County DSS, therefore they might be apprehensive about voluntarily attending a group here at DSS to discuss their own parenting struggles and challenges. However, the response was very positive. As one mother stated, ‘I keep coming to this group because I want to do better for my kids’. OCPYC funding allowed us to ensure that parents were able to continue attending this group week after week, so that they could build upon their knowledge of positive parenting strategies, brainstorm and problem-solve as a group, and make vital social connections to relieve some of the stress that comes with parenting young children.”

*--Alexa Hamel, Community Response Program, Orange County Department of Social Services*

OCPYC supported the **Orange County Rape Crisis Center's Safe Families Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program**, an educational training provided by a certified Darkness2Light facilitator in order to bring awareness to the potential signs of child sexual abuse. The Stewards of Children trainings were provided to 45 child care staff and 15 parents/caregivers in Orange County.

With our support, **Orange County Literacy Council's Family Literacy Program** served 87 parents/caregivers, with 88% reporting that their child improved in at least one area of reading or that they felt more prepared for their child to start kindergarten as a result of their participation in the program, and 96% reporting an increase in the frequency with which they read to their children.

To support early literacy and facilitate access to books for all of our county's children, OCPYC participates in **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**. The program's mission is to foster a love of reading in children from birth to five years old through the gift of a free, age-appropriate book delivered to a child's home every month. In FY 2018-2019 15,431 books were delivered to 1,039 children in Orange County.

**OCPYC's Reach Out and Read program** trains pediatric providers to coach parents at well visits about the critical role that reading and language-rich interactions play in their daily routine, starting at birth. In FY 2018-2019 OCPYC worked with two medical practices, UNC Children's Primary Care Clinic and the Orange County Health Department. OCPYC purchased 870 age-appropriate books to support the practices and a total of 2,226 well child visits were conducted with children ages 6 months to 5 years.



# Community Engagement

**We work with community partners to leverage connections and achieve maximum impact on the systems that affect young children in Orange County.**

OCPYC hosts the **Orange County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**, which is working to ensure reading proficiency by the end of third grade for all children, a key predictor of school success. More than 45 people, representing parents, community members, and 21 cross-sector organizations and agencies, have participated in developing action and implementation plans. In early 2018, the campaign received official designation as part of the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Network.

OCPYC also hosts **Making Connections: Orange County Comprehensive Early Childhood Initiative**, a collaboration of eight early childhood, educational and financial literacy, mental health, and violence prevention organizations. This initiative provides coordinated and comprehensive services to low income children ages birth to five years, their families, and the child care professionals who serve them.

OCPYC is a partner in the **Family Success Alliance**, a cradle-to-career initiative based in the Orange County Health Department that seeks to close the achievement gap and end generational poverty in Orange County.



**OCPYC is a training and professional development resource for teachers and child care providers.**

# Partners & Programs

## Smart Start Programs

### **Chapel Hill Training and Outreach Project – KidSCOPE**

*Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)*

*KidSCOPE Hispanic Outreach Project*

*Incredible Years Toddler Parenting Education*

### **Child Care Services Association**

*Ready Infant Toddler Classroom Initiative*

### **Orange County Department of Social Services**

*Smart Start Child Care Subsidy*

*Community Response Program*

### **Orange County Literacy Council**

*Family Literacy Program*

### **Orange County Partnership for Young Children**

*Smart Start Subsidy Enhancements*

*NC Pre-K Match*

*NC Pre-K Quality Enhancement and Support*

*Growing up Healthy*

*Reach Out and Read*

### **Orange County Public Library**

*Time to Read*

### **Orange County Rape Crisis Center**

*Safe Families Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program*

## Community Partners

### ***Thank you to our community partners involved in:***

Orange County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Making Connections

Growing up Healthy

***Thank you to our Young Children's Art Contest and Exhibit community sites:*** The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro, Carrboro Town Hall, Orange County Sportsplex, Orange County Public Library, Efland-Cheeks Community Center, Robert and Pearl Seymour Center, Kidzu Children's Museum, and the State Employees Credit Union.

# Staff

**Brandon Cutler**, Social Work Intern

**Shawna Daniels**, Healthy Starts Coordinator

**Jaelyn Harris**, Administrative and Program Assistant

**Linda Hindman**, Associate Director

**Maria Hitt**, Project Manager, Growing Up Healthy

**Kimberley McNeil**, Program Coordinator

**Robin Pulver**, Executive Director

**JJ Richardson**, Communications and Engagement Manager

**Dionne Smith**, Early Childhood Coordinator

**Teresa Wright**, Administrative and Contracts Manager

# Contractors

**Lindsay Owen**, Finance Manager

# Board of Directors

## ***Executive Committee***

**Christopher Brook**, NC Court of Appeals, *President*

**Kerry Moore**, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, *Vice-President*

**Stephen Jackson**, Consultant, *Secretary*

**Jean Mankowski**, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, *Treasurer*

**Lucinda Munger**, Orange County Public Library, *Past Officer*

**Jamezetta Bedford**, Orange County Commissioner

**Siobhan Colgan**, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute

**Sue Florence**, Cedar Grove Community Center

**Braxton Foushee**, NAACP

**Carmen Huerta-Bapat**, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

**Matt Hughes**, Hillsborough Board of Commissioners

**Adriana Martinez**, Spanish for Fun Academy

**Quintana Stewart**, Orange County Health Department

***Sincere thanks to Coby Jansen Austin, Emily Bivins, Mia Burroughs, and Todd Wirt, who all served on the OCPYC Board of Directors and completed their terms in FY 2018-2019.***

# Funding Partners

## ***Thank you to our funding partners***

We appreciate the support of our funding partners for FY 2018-2019—The North Carolina Partnership for Children, North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education, United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Triangle Community Foundation, Oak Foundation through the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, NC State University Farm to ECE Collaborative, Mead Family Foundation, Agadino Foundation, The Educational Foundation of America, Halle Family Foundation through Jewish Charities of Baltimore.

## ***Thank you to our individual donors***

We appreciate our individual donors, who provided support for OCPYC and Transplanting Traditions Community Farm, and the contributions of our donors through the State Employees Combined Campaign, who help us to continue to serve the children of Orange County.

# Financials

| Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Net Assets (unaudited) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019. |              |   |              |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Receipts  |              | Expenditures                                    |              |
| State Grants  | \$ 1,951,239 | Personnel and Contracted Services               | \$ 743,409   |
| (Including Smart Start and NC Pre-K)  |              | Non-Fixed Operating Expenses                    | 76,694       |
| Federal Grants  | 1,424,941    | Fixed Charges                                   | 71,632       |
| Local Grants  | 21,587       | Property and Equipment                          | 5,589        |
| (Including Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro & Orange County)                                       |              | Services/Contracts/Grants                       | 3,368,535    |
| Private Contributions & Fundraising Events  | 128,846      | Total Expenditures                              | \$ 4,265,859 |
| Interest Income   | 481          |   |              |
| Other Receipts  | 16,705       | Excess/Deficiency of Receipts over Expenditures | (150,060)    |
|   |              | Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year         | 484,026      |
| Total Receipts  | \$ 3,543,799 | Net Assets at Year End                          | \$ 333,966   |
| Smart Start Subsidy Program   | 572,000      |   |              |
|   |              | Net Assets Consisted of:                        |              |
| Total Funds Administered  | \$ 4,115,799 | Cash on Deposit                                 | \$ 333,966   |



*"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, make this world a beautiful garden."*

*—unknown*

"As the director of Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Pre-K/Head Start, the support the Orange County Partnership for Young Children provides for our program and school system is invaluable! OCPYC works collaboratively with all partners and always takes the whole family and community into consideration in their work. The children and families of Orange County are fortunate to have a dedicated group that actively problem-solves the needs of the community."

*--Kerry Moore, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools; Vice-President of the OCPYC Board of Directors*

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@OCPYC



@OCsmartstart

"It is important to me that all children in our community have an opportunity to start kindergarten well prepared physically, socially, and developmentally. The education, outreach, technical assistance, oversight, and support that OCPYC provides throughout Orange County ensures a strong system of child care providers to set our young children up for success."

*--Jean Mankowski, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities; Treasurer of the OCPYC Board of Directors*