



North Carolina Regional Early Childhood Professional Development Planning Project

Overview

The NC Division of Child Development (DCD) has provided funding to support the facilitation of a regional early childhood professional development planning process, managed by the NC Child Care Resource & Referral Council (Council) and conducted in partnership with the NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development (Institute). Collectively, the regional action plans, current research and input from stakeholders will be used to inform regional efforts and the development of a written statewide early childhood professional development plan as outlined in the Plan for CCDF Services in North Carolina and the implementation of a continuing education framework.

Timeline

The regional early childhood planning will occur between October 2009 and July 2010.

Regional Teams

Lead CCR&R agencies will coordinate the activities of the regional planning teams to support the development of action plans. Action plans will be informed by input from team members and the Institute. Regional teams may include participation of up to 30 persons per team.

The teams must include representation from child care resource and referral and/or Smart Start partnership (including professional development providers/coordinators) in the region, and at least one DCD regulatory consultant serving the region, community college and university faculty from each institution in the region, an early intervention expert, and providers and administrators of direct services for children (must include representation reflective of the diversity of both Early Educators and early care and education settings in the region).

Process

A total of 18 regional teams will participate in a facilitated process to support the development of 5-year regional action plans which will identify goals, strategies and resources. The Institute will designate and train the facilitators and provide needed resources, guidance and tools to support the project's goal of creating regional action plans.

Teams will use a facilitated process and a defined Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) analysis provided by the Institute to support the development of the action plan. Guidance on how to implement the SWOT analysis based on a common conceptual framework (www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/policy/ecwsi/Workforce_Designs_Brief.pdf) will be provided to support each team gathering information about their region and documenting findings in an action plan. The SWOT analysis will be conducted during a minimum of four regional meetings, per region. Regional teams must follow a common timeline and use tools provided.

Contact Information

For more information about North Carolina's regional early childhood professional development system planning effort, please contact Debra Torrence at ecpdinstitute@gmail.com.

Why is this important?

Qualified and well-compensated professionals are essential to ensuring high-quality early childhood education programs. State policies and financing of the professional development system have a significant impact on the recruitment, quality, and retention of early childhood professionals. Through the development of an integrated early childhood professional development system guided by a state plan, North Carolina will increase its capacity to develop and retain a competent and stable early childhood workforce.