

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Child Care Access & Innovation - Program Administration
FY 2026-27

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is requested to approve the creation of a full-time, three-year time-limited position dedicated to statewide coordination, grant administration, technical assistance, data collection, partnership development, and innovative strategies to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare for community college student-parents. The funding for this position is created from two philanthropic awards made to the NC Community College System Foundation.

Strategic Plan Reference: Goal 3: Student Success

Strategy 3.3.1: Expand community collaboration with government and educational partners, non-profits, and businesses to connect all students with the wraparound services to support success and completion.

Strategy 3.3.2: Pursue statewide funding for wraparound services and support to advance greater student success and completion.

Background: Access to affordable, high-quality childcare is an important factor in helping student-parents remain enrolled, complete their educational programs, and enter the workforce. The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) serves students across all 58 community colleges, many of whom balance college with work and family responsibilities. The NCCCS proposed establishing a statewide State Director of Child Care Access & Innovation to provide dedicated leadership and coordination for efforts to reduce childcare as a barrier to student success. The position is designed to serve as an operational anchor for statewide childcare initiatives and as a strategic liaison among the System Office, community colleges, state agencies, workforce partners, early childhood organizations, and other key stakeholders.

The proposed position will support implementation of community college childcare grants, provide technical assistance to colleges, strengthen statewide partnerships, support grant administration and resource development, improve data collection and evaluation, and advance innovative childcare solutions for student-parents.

The System Office subsequently received two philanthropic grant awards totaling \$500,666.67 to support this work over a three-year period. The grant funding will provide the resources necessary to establish and operate the time-limited position and carry out the activities identified in the grant agreements.

Rationale: The North Carolina Community College System proposes using the philanthropic grant funding to establish a full-time, time-limited State Director of Child Care Access & Innovation position within the Programs & Student Services division reporting to the Associate Vice President of Student Services.

The position will provide statewide leadership, coordination, and strategic support for childcare access initiatives that help student-parents achieve credential completion and workforce success. Responsibilities will include supporting childcare grant implementation and compliance, developing technical assistance for colleges, coordinating statewide partnerships, identifying additional funding opportunities, developing data systems to track student-parent needs and outcomes, and facilitating systemwide innovation and a community of practice. The proposed position was designed as a three-year, philanthropy-supported position, with the long-term goal of transitioning the work to a permanently funded NCCCS position.

Method of Allocation: Up to \$500,666.67 will be allocated from the two philanthropic grant awards to support the Child Care Access & Innovation initiative, including personnel costs and other allowable expenditures consistent with the grant agreements and the purpose of the awards. Grant funds will be administered by the NCCCS System Office in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective grant agreements and applicable State policies and procedures.

Fund Source and Allocation Period: Funding is available through two philanthropic grant awards totaling \$500,666.67. The allocation period will be a three-year duration.

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