



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

August 28, 2018

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 49**

## **DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is a nationally-recognized leader in high-quality, evidence-based early childhood development policy and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, improving outcomes for young children and their families in North Carolina continues to be a priority; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina, almost half of all children live in low-income households, nearly a quarter face food insecurity, and the infant mortality rate is high compared to most states; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring all children get a healthy and nurturing start provides the foundation needed for a more educated and skilled workforce, lower health care costs, and reduced rates of incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council (“NCECAC”) was re-established by Exec. Order No. 40, 32 N.C. Reg. 1737-1739 (March 15, 2018), *Re-establishing the North Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council*, and was tasked with establishing a state early childhood action plan; and

**WHEREAS**, partnerships among government, businesses, and philanthropic organizations contribute to the well-being of young children across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, an early childhood action plan built on robust public-private partnerships in North Carolina can improve children’s healthy development, grow and strengthen our workforce, and reduce public costs for poor health, education, economic and social outcomes.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

### **Section 1. Early Childhood Action Plan**

- a. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”), in collaboration with the NCECAC, shall develop a North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan (“the NCECAP”).
- b. The NCECAP shall recommend statewide and local efforts for improving young children’s health, supporting safe and nurturing environments for children and families, and providing high-quality early childhood learning opportunities. It shall include goals as well as strategies and timeframes for achieving these goals. The NCECAP shall also include

metrics that will be publicly reported on an annual basis to track progress toward improving early childhood outcomes.

- c. NCDHHS shall consult with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, experts in maternal and pediatric health, child welfare, and early learning, as it develops the NCECAP.

**Section 2. Submission of NCECAP**

NCDHHS shall make a draft NCECAP available for public feedback no later than November 1, 2018.

**Section 3. Effect and Duration**

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately. It shall remain in effect until rescinded.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen.

  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State

