**Bold**

- Sets a vision and goals to reach by 2025 for NC children.
- Focuses on how we can change outcomes for young children from birth through age 8 and their families.
- Centers on three themes: that North Carolina’s young children are healthy, grow up safe and nurtured, and are well-supported to be learning and ready to succeed.
- Builds off the extensive leadership of NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading led by the NC Early Childhood Foundation, NC Think Babies, the NC Perinatal Health Strategic Plan, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Essentials for Childhood Taskforce, and others.

**Data-Informed**

- All 10 goals feature a measure of accountability by 2025.
- Data for each goal include statewide and county information, broken down by demographics.
- An online data dashboard provides public accessibility for over 50 measures.

**Evolving**

- Governor Roy Cooper issued an executive order charging the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to collaboratively lead the development of a statewide early childhood plan, with support from the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), other departments and stakeholders.
- Nearly 1,500 people from across the state provided feedback and input in the drafting of the plan.
- Feedback was provided from a broad range of stakeholders, including parents, families, healthcare providers, child care providers, educators, school administrators, child advocacy groups and researchers.
- The plan will be reevaluated on an ongoing basis as appropriate measures and areas of focus shift over time.


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2025 Goals At-A-Glance

**Goal 1: Healthy Babies**
Babies across North Carolina from all backgrounds will have a healthy start in their first year of life.

**Goal 2: Preventive Health Services**
Babies, toddlers, young children and their families will have regular, ongoing access to high-quality health services.

**Goal 3: Food Security**
Babies, toddlers, young children and their families across North Carolina will have access to enough healthy food every day.

**Goal 4: Safe and Secure Housing**
Babies, toddlers, young children and their families across North Carolina will have access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

**Goal 5: Safe and Nurturing Relationships**
Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will grow up with safe and nurturing family and caregiver relationships.

**Goal 6: Permanent Families for Children in Foster Care**
Babies, toddlers and young children in foster care will grow up in stable, consistent and nurturing families, whether that is with the child’s birth family or through an adoptive family.

**Goal 7: Social-Emotional Health and Resilience**
Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will express, recognize and manage their emotions in a healthy way, especially under stress.

**Goal 8: High-Quality Early Learning**
Babies, toddlers and young children across North Carolina will have access to high-quality opportunities to engage in early learning.

**Goal 9: On Track for School Success**
Young children across North Carolina will enter kindergarten on track for reaching their developmental goals.

**Goal 10: Reading at Grade Level**
Young children across North Carolina will read on grade-level in elementary school, with a particular focus on African American, American Indian and Hispanic children who face the greatest systemic barriers to reading success.