



The **North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC)** spearheaded the assessment and enhancement of data collection and data management capacities of Smart Start local partnerships. This project began with a comprehensive assessment of local partnership data collection activities including measures, how the data are collected, where data are stored, computing platform and how the data are used. The findings from the comprehensive assessment of local partnership data collection activities informed the work of the Smart Start Data Advisory Group (DAG), which made recommendations for common outcomes and measures for local partnerships to use in assessing their Smart Start funded activities. Through this work, NCPC developed a new Smart Start data reporting system for local partnerships to report on outputs and common outcomes for each Smart Start-funded activity. Mini-grants were also awarded to Smart Start local partnerships to support their local efforts to collect, measure, report and use programmatic data.

Smart Start local partnerships received extensive training on outputs and common outcomes, as well as on how to use the new data reporting system. In addition, the Smart Start Outcomes Measurement Tools Resource Guide was developed to aid local partnerships in

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Smart Start Data Project

PARTNER

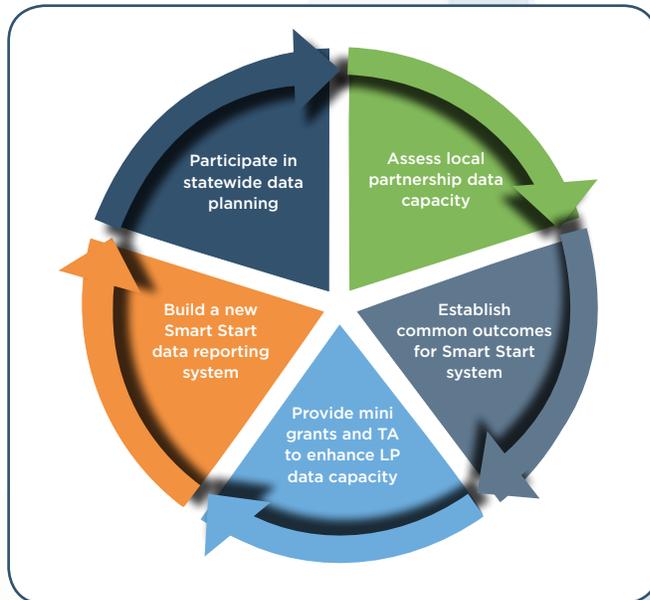


What did we learn?

NCPC has used the local partnership data capacity assessments to provide assistance to all local partnerships on their data collection efforts, particularly related to Smart Start.

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selecting the measures for each of their intended outcomes. The Measures Guide includes over 100 pages of information on potential measures for each of the Smart Start common outcomes. It includes background information on each measure, as well as guidance on how to summarize the results to report in the new Smart Start data reporting system. Partnerships began using the new reporting system in the fall of 2015 and began reporting outcome data in 2016.

NCPC also continued its work to promote the use of high quality measurement tools. Funding for data collection for KIPS (Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale, identified by the Data Advisory Group as a gold standard measure for parent and child interaction) assessments and equipment was a common request for mini-grants, gathering significant interest by the third round of grants. In addition, a multi-agency collaborative initiative began to further the use of the Classroom Assessment Scoring System.

NCPC has also engaged in a planning process with the NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS) project staff to promote alignment of data goals, to provide support for NC ECIDS development, and to work toward ultimately linking appropriate Smart Start data with NC ECIDS.

For more information about the Smart Start Data Project, go to <http://www.ncsmartstart.org> ■