



Project: Faith Summits

Summary

The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) hosted five regional faith summits in all regions across NC in September and October 2013 for religious leaders with and without child care programs. Four of these were funded by the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant and one by a private foundation, NC Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF). The summits provided an overview on early childhood brain development, examples of high quality care and its importance, faith leaders speaking to their commitment to quality programs, and an overview of North Carolina's quality rating system promoting the advantages of participation.

Successes

Holding the Faith Summits enabled new engagement with a broad base of support from both the faith community and community child care programs for young children and families. Faith and child care leaders were involved in the planning. Over 500 people attended and 30% responded to requests for further action. Holding Faith Summits helped to bring attention to the need to provide high quality child care in programs even if they are not in the state Quality Rating System.

Lessons

Programs may be willing to improve quality but still not want to participate in TQRIS due to requirements of paperwork and teacher training. Participants also wished for more information about how to address child development issues outside of child care programs, including how to work with parents on these issues.

Closing Thoughts

Participants were so moved that at least seven other counties held local Faith Summits in the next year and funded the events with local funds to engage additional audiences. A [Faith Summit Guide](#) for local faith leaders was created by our partners at NCECF. Watch the Faith Summit [VIDEO](#)