

# BOCC Early Childhood Update

Durham County Cooperative Extension

*Budget Work Session*

**June 3, 2024**

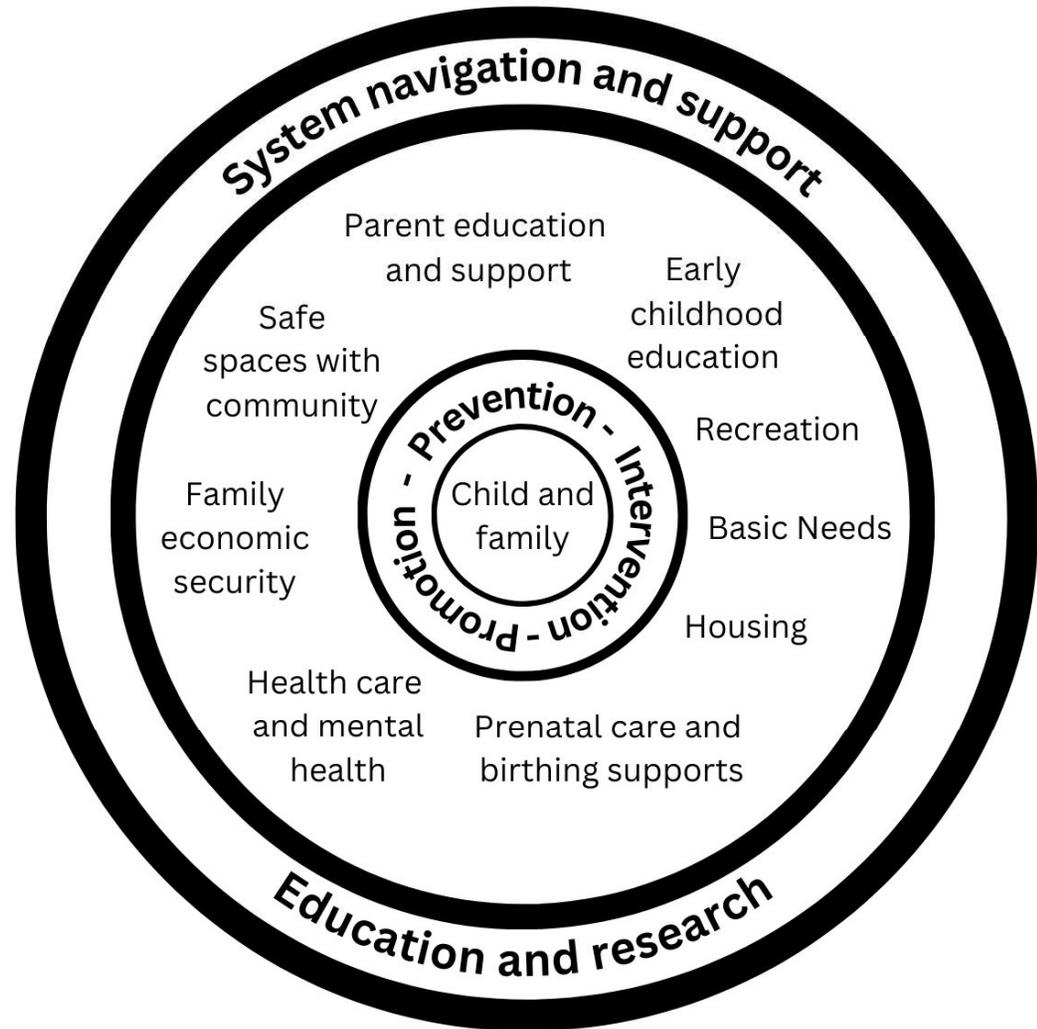
Meytal Barak, County Early Childhood Coordinator  
Donna Rewalt, County Extension Director





## Coordinated Durham's Early Childhood Ecosystem

Trauma-informed  
Culturally and linguistically responsive and affirming  
Community-driven  
Strengths-based





## Grown In Durham – Durham’s Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP)

Durham's ECAP envisions *a community where all children will get a healthy start and develop to their full potential in safe and nurturing families, schools and communities.*

- The plan was developed with County investment and led by community members and families.
- The [5 to Thrive](#) key priority areas that Durham families have identified as being most important to them—Money for families, Childcare, Safe spaces, Wellness support, & Connection to a Village
- The ECAP strategies and priorities form the centerpiece of Durham County’s Early Childhood work and investments.





## Grown in Durham – Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP) Implementation FY 24

Under the [5 to Thrive](#) key priority areas that Durham families have identified as being most important to them, Grown in Durham was able to:

- Reconvene the leadership group of community members that informed the Guaranteed Income Pilot report to ensure a long-term engagement with DCo Thrives to provide guidance to the program administrator.
- Host several events for childcare professionals as part of the advocacy work that Grown in Durham is leading—Building capacity among childcare professionals to advocate for systems change, bolstering their capacity for advocacy.
- Provide funding to community rooted groups to create safe spaces for our children and families (Rainbow Collective for Change).



# Current Early Childhood Investments

## **Durham County FY24 Early Childhood Operating Budget, excluding salary, (\$334,636)**

- ECAP implementation funding, including backbone/facilitation support
- Operating funds for Early Childhood Office (training, supplies, etc.)
- Nonprofit investments through County Nonprofit Program:
  - MAAME - Black and Brown maternal health supports
  - HEARTS – Teen maternal health supports
  - Refugee Community Partnership – support for refugee and migrant communities
  - Diaper Bank
- Additional contracts with EC nonprofits and community-based organizations addressing gaps in our early childhood system, specifically early literacy.



# Proposed FY25 Early Childhood Budget

The FY25 proposed operating budget excluding salary, (\$173,802) represents an approximate 50% reduction. This will require difficult choices and community impacts:

- Removes the County Nonprofit Program investments in nonprofits. Limiting the support to community-based organizations implementing early childhood work:
  - Story times, distribution of more than 500 books, and Ready for School supports.
  - Educator and Family Workshops (English and Spanish) for LGBTQIA+ and Gender Inclusive schools and home environments.
  - Pregnancy/postpartum mental health support with licensed clinical social worker or peer support specialists.
- Reduces funds available for new Grown In Durham Implementation this will limit the opportunity to build on the 5 to Thrive recommendations.



# BOCC Food Security Update

Durham County Cooperative Extension

*Budget Work Session*

**June 3, 2024**

Donna Rewalt, County Extension Director  
Raina Goldstein Bunnag, County Food Security Coordinator



# Food Insecurity Rates in Durham

Overall – 12%

Race/ethnicity –

- Black – 24%
- Latino – 22%
- White – 9%

Age –

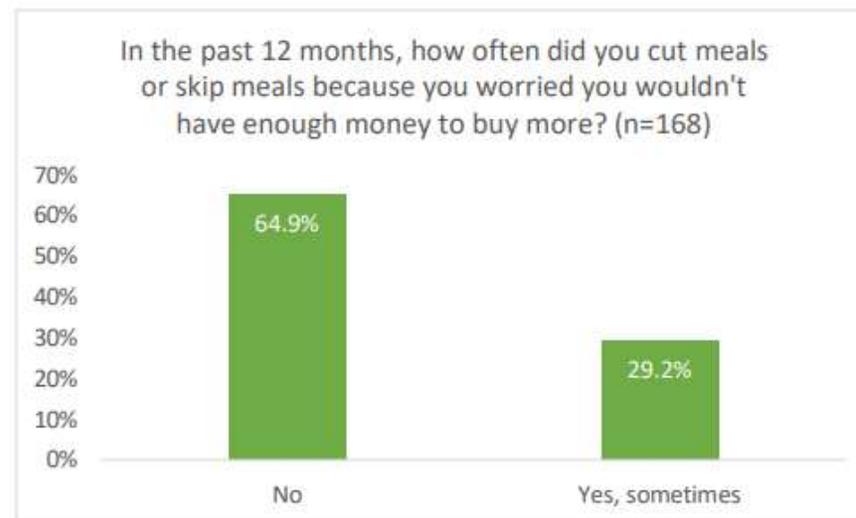
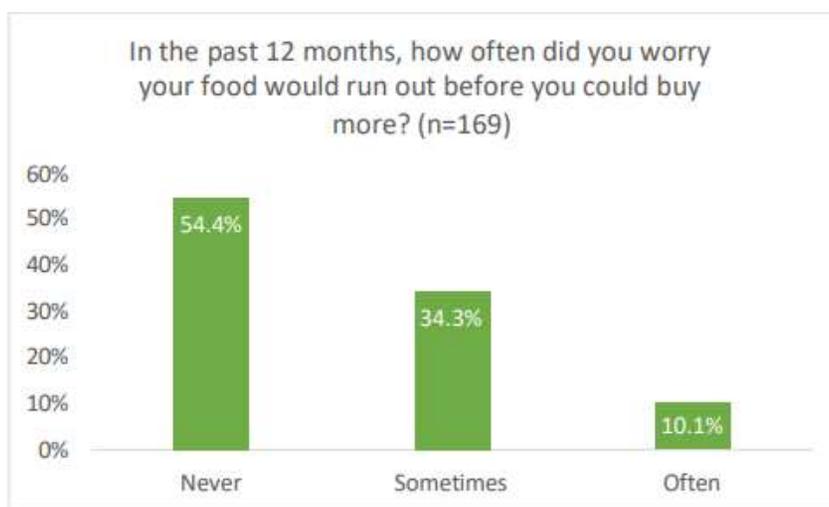
- Children – 20%
- \*Older adults  $\geq 65$  –
  - 15% living in poverty

Food insecurity data - [Feeding America and Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC \(2022\)](#)

\*Poverty data from Healthy Communities NC



# Insight from 2023 Durham Community Health Assessment



[CHA data](#) collected in fall 2022





# National Food Security Landscape – Challenges and Interrelated Factors

## **Food insecurity increased for Americans in 2022**

- 10.2% in 2021 --> 12.8% in 2022
- Families with children were most significantly impacted – 40% increase from 2021-2022

## **Causes**

- Continued negative economic impacts of COVID
- Decreased COVID-related federal assistance (e.g. nutrition benefits, Child Tax Credit)
- Increased food and housing costs

## **Looking forward**

- SNAP benefits are being threatened in the upcoming federal farm bill
- COVID assistance to communities is ending (e.g. ARPA, ESSER)
- Continued housing crisis





# Durham County's Two-Pronged Food Security Approach

Enhance the social safety-net to meet current needs

Work towards equitable, systemic change to improve long-term food security



# Accomplishments

- Coordinate Durham Food Security Network to support and expand local food security efforts
- Manage community grants and contracts to best meet urgent resident food needs
- Leverage County resources to secure outside funding for food security
- Contribute to efforts to strengthen our regional food system to ensure sustainability

Refer to [Food Security November 2023 BOCC presentation](#) for more details



# Current Food Security Investments

## Durham County FY 24 Food Security Operating Budget, excluding salary, (\$430,944)

- Targeted non-profit support\* to meet Durham's most pressing needs and service gaps:
  - Emanuel Food Pantry – Community food distribution
  - Believers United for Progress - Community food distribution
  - Durham Congregations in Action – Food security microgrants
  - Root Causes – Home delivered food
  - Meals on Wheels – Home delivered meals for seniors
- County Food Security Network – Coordination and Collaboration for local efforts
- Local Food System Assessment/Plan – Moving to start early FY 25
- Regional Food System Support – Spearhead Regional Food System collaborative
- World Hunger Day Event – Celebrate and support community efforts
- Operating Funds for Food Security Office (training, supplies, etc.)
- *USDA Farm Campus Assessment Grant*

\*Note: Non-profit support funds are a combination of the Durham County Nonprofit Program funds and general food security funds in the Food Security fund center.



# ARPA Funds to Further Support Food Security Needs

- Community Food Security Grants (formerly County funded)
- East Durham Grocery
  - Community-accountable grocery pilot
- Support to Interfaith Food Shuttle and Food Bank of NC to increase food distribution to food pantries
  - This investment is part of the County's response to the 2023 benefits reduction



# Proposed FY25 Food Security Budget

The current proposed Food Security operating budget (\$430,944), excluding salary, represents an approximate 35% reduction in operating funds, excluding salary, of \$149,067.

This will mean making choices and reduced community impacts:

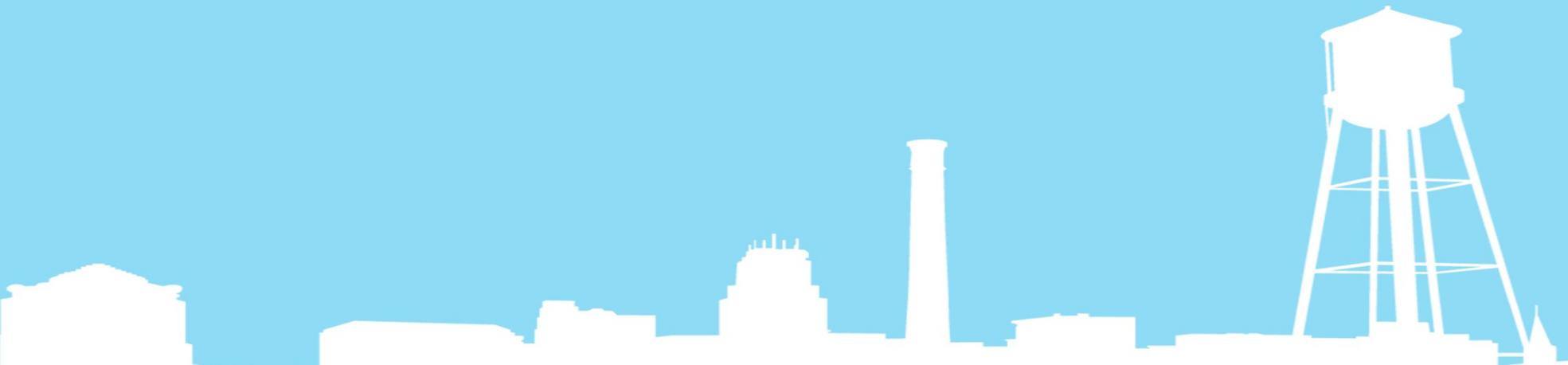
- A 50% reduction in County Nonprofit program funds
- Additional choices include
  - Reducing targeted support for community needs through nonprofit partners in home delivered meals/food, community food provision, and small grant program
  - Changing World Hunger Day community event
  - Reducing support for regional food security initiatives

FY25 Commitments:

- Portion of Livestock Agent services, shared with Orange County
- Regional Food Security partnership
- Farm Campus support



# Questions and Discussion



# Supplemental Slides

## Durham PreK





## Current Durham PreK Investment

- Durham County started investing in Durham PreK in 2018 with \$4,178,517.
- The FY 24 County budget investment is \$6,857,581 and provides:
  - 659 seats
  - Teacher salaries
  - Education and training
  - Administrative support



# Durham PreK FY 25 Request

- Durham County's investment to reach the community goal of expanding high-quality public preschool to serve up to 75% of the total four-year-old census. Currently at 40.5% with a 94% enrollment (complete update can be found [here](#)).
- With the request of \$8,246,365 for FY25, an increase of \$1,388,784:
  - An additional 45-70 DPK seats distributed across all sites, including the newly built Murray Massenburg. Bringing the expansion of DPK from 40.5% to 42%.
  - Transportation for 10-15 high need students.
  - Increase support for teachers to cope with social emotional needs of post pandemic students.
  - Increase support for the workforce apprenticeship students working in DPK sites.





## Proposed FY25 Durham PreK Investment

- The County's draft budget proposes \$7,300,000 for DPK, which is an increase of \$442,419, this will allow:
  - Funding of 18 seats at Murray-Massenburg instead of the requested 45 seats.
  - Add the new site location at RTP with a modified 50% class size – 9 seats.
  - Provide transportation for 5 high need students instead of 10-15.
  - Defer hiring healthy social behavior support team member.
  - Implement reductions strategically across all budgeted program line items to accommodate increases in costs for mandatory services.
  - Maintain existing apprentices at DPK sites but freeze new enrollment.

