



**ONE PLACE**  
CREATING HOPE FOR FAMILIES  
a partner in the  
smart start network 

# 2023 *Impact Report*

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For more than 25 years, One Place, formerly known as Onslow County Partnership for Children, has worked to strengthen children, connect families, and end child abuse in Onslow County through the provision of critical programs and services to local children and families.

## VISION

All children and families are safe, healthy, and living to their fullest potential.

## MISSION

When they have challenges, we connect all children and their families to programs and resources that provide opportunities and hope.



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 [www.oneplaceonslow.org](http://www.oneplaceonslow.org)



# Our Boards

## GOVERNANCE & PROGRAMS

**Julia Collins**-Chair, Community Representative

**Joel Churchwell**-Vice Chair, Pastor, Sandy Run Missionary Church

**Ashley Smith**-Secretary, Department of Defense Schools

**Elizabeth Thomas**-Treasurer, Community Representative

**Michael Brown**-Community Representative, Bank of America

**Brian Kelly**-Community Representative, City of Jacksonville

**Senatra Spearmon**-Community Representative, Onslow County Public Library

**Kathryn Wessell**-Community Representative, Catalyst Child Care Center

**Mary Hendrickson**-Community Representative, Retired DOD Educator

**Daisy Haywood**-Community Representative, Retired Law Enforcement

**Staci Davis**-Community Representative, YMCA

**Emily Sabo**-Parent Representative, Early Head Start

**Monroe "Roe" Holcomb**-Community Representative, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic @ Hope for the Warriors

## ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

**Mike Yaniero**-Chair, Director of Public Safety, City of Jacksonville

**Julia Collins**-Vice Chair, Community Representative

**Joel Churchwell**-Treasurer, Pastor, Sandy Run Missionary Church

**Jennifer Kellum**-Secretary, Small Business Owner

**Zac Everhart**-Community Representative

**Bob Dickerson**-Community Representative, MajGen USMC Retired

**Jeff Clark**-Community Representative, Marine Federal Credit Union

**Jeb Brown**-Community Representative, Small Business Owner

# Year In Review

In 2023 we celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year of serving children and families in Onslow County and made additional strides toward sustainability of services.

We worked to bolster our internal strength by reflecting on more than two decades of learning and continued on a clear course for continued growth and sustainability not only within our local community, but as an advocate for early care and education within the state of North Carolina.

With investments from the State of North Carolina, SECU Foundation, City of Jacksonville, and generous community supporters, we moved forward with the design and development of our permanent home, SECU Hope Center. The building will serve as a holistic community hub with learning space for the early care and education community and community partners, and therapeutic and medical treatment space for child abuse victims and their families.



In October we launched our Foundations for Resilience platform to provide training and professional development opportunities to local nonprofit and for-profit organizations. The program aims to create a more responsive community that provides a strong foundation for children and families and creates lasting, positive change and a more resilient community for everyone in Onslow County.

The next year promises to be another opportunity for bold, strategic, and thoughtful action as we continue to collaborate with families, community partners, stakeholders, and our generous donors, to create a future where all children and families are safe, healthy, and living to their fullest potential.

# State of Child Care

Data from the One Place Community Needs Assessment conducted in the summer of 2023 shows a decline in the total number of licensed child care programs from **81 in 2017 to 63 in 2022**. There was a decrease across various license types, particularly in the number of home-based care programs, indicating a potential shift in the child care landscape or regulatory changes favoring center-based care.



**License Types:** There's a shift from home-based to center-based care, evident from the decrease in family child care homes (**from 36 to 17**) and a relatively stable number of child care centers over the years. The decrease in family child care homes indicates challenges faced by home-based providers due to changing regulations.

**Star Ratings:** There is a consistent number of 5-star centers, indicating a commitment to high-quality child care.

**Child Care Staff:** The number of child care staff shows a gradual decrease from 2017 to 2022.

**Staff:** The number of staff in both family child care homes and child care centers has decreased, potentially indicating a shrinking workforce or changes in staff-to-child ratios.

**Children Served:** The data reveals fluctuations in the number of children served, with a decline from 2017 to 2022.

**Children Served:** Both family child care homes and child care centers experienced a reduction in the number of children served. This decline could be due to various factors, including changes in demand, closures of child care programs, or economic factors affecting families' ability to access child care services.

**Overall Implications:** The data suggests a shifting landscape in the child care industry, with a decline in the number of programs, staff, and children served. This trend raises concerns about the accessibility and availability of child care services. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the availability of high-quality child care services, which play a vital role in early childhood development and parental workforce participation.

In June, The North Carolina Child Care Commission and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education hosted an event in Jacksonville as part of their collaboration to modernize NC's child care quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), commonly known as the Star Rated License. Parents, teachers, administrators, early educators, and community partners gathered to provide feedback, experiences, and challenges related to the Star Rated License system.

NCDHHS and NCCCC are working to develop a plan that will be reviewed by the legislature in Spring 2024.

**Read More:**

<https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/blog/state-examines-ratings-tool-for-assessing-child-care-quality/>

One Place continues to advocate for the early care and education workforce. We maintain a job board to host county-wide employment opportunities for early educators and provide professional development trainings.



# ONslow COUNTY CHILD CARE STATUS

## NUMBER OF PROGRAMS- FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES

February 2020	22
June 2022	18
June 2023	15

## NUMBER OF PROGRAMS- CHILD CARE CENTER

February 2020	49
June 2022	46
June 2023	45

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED

February 2020	3,743
June 2022	3,181
June 2023	3,324

## NUMBER OF STAFF

February 2020	631
June 2022	603
June 2023	565

## LICENSED CAPACITY

February 2020	6,086
June 2022	5,977
June 2023	5,470



# Strengthening Children

The first 2,000 days of a child's life are the most important. We provide mental health resources and programs to build a child's resilience — so they have the tools they need to thrive. Our early education programs support the healthy development of children and lay the foundation for their future success.

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



Preschool programs served **795 children** in Onslow County in **21 sites**.

**688** -North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten

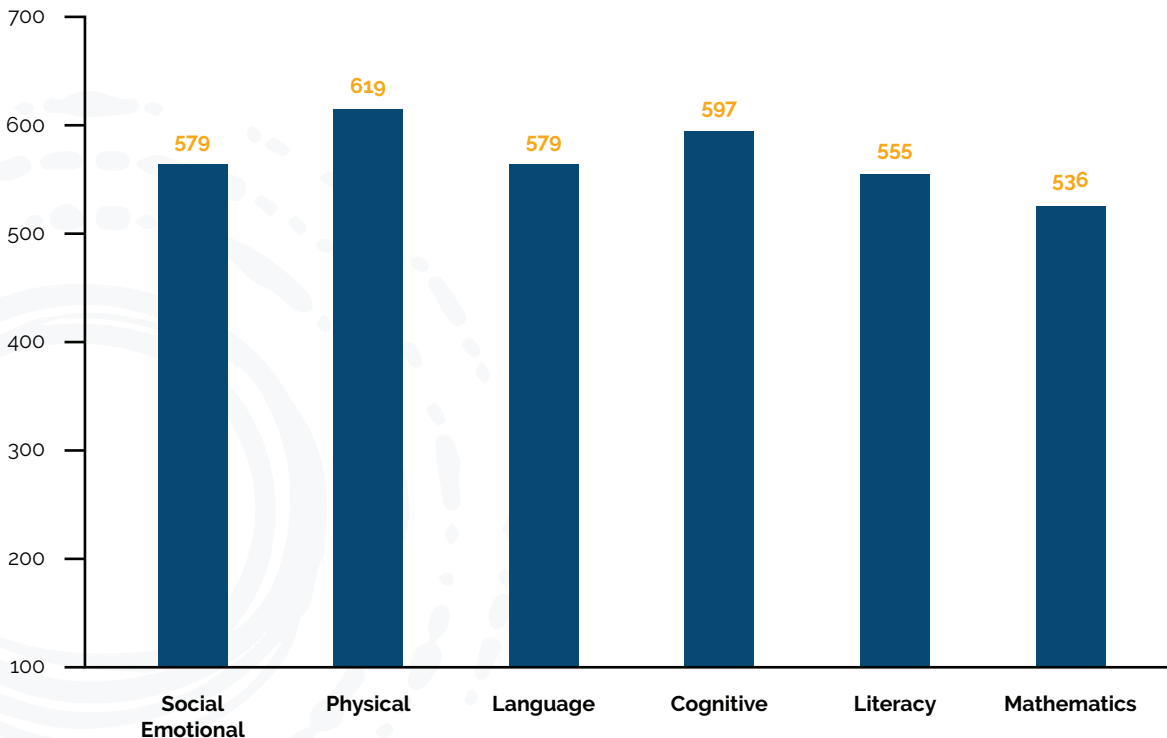
**107** -Three School

**57 children** participating in preschool programs had an IEP.

**43% of children** enrolled in NC Pre-K and **31% of children** enrolled in Three School were military dependents.

Our preschool programs use the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment model to track widely held expectations for enrolled children.

## MEETS OR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



## TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Training

One Place held **107 training opportunities**, reaching **836 early educators and community members**, with topics including health and safety, literacy, inclusion, managing challenging behaviors, and recognizing and reporting child abuse. This represents an increase of **74%** from the prior fiscal year.

**97%** of participants reported gaining a skill they could immediately use.

**104 early educators** participated in professional development opportunities to support their careers in early education.

# Technical Assistance

Families deserve to trust that the child care facility that they select for their children is high quality. The Technical Assistance (TA) Team at One Place supports the coaching, mentoring, and professional development of early educators (teachers and administrators) in our community. The team provides resources, increases knowledge, and supports the implementation process for improving early education environments for children and their families.

**23 Child Care facilities, 174 classrooms, and 616 teaching staff** received technical assistance services to help improve early education environments in Onslow County. These services and supports impacted **2,566 children** in the community.



*I learned that setting up a classroom in an intentional way can help reduce undesirable behavior.*

*-Participant from "Care and Supervision" training*



# Early Head Start

Our home-based option serves expectant families during pregnancy through six weeks postpartum. Center-based services are offered through a Child Care Partnership with Excel Learning Centers and are available for eligible families with children ages 6 weeks through 3 years old.

EHS and Excel program staff have the unique privilege of partnering with families through the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive services that promote children's success in school and beyond.

## PRENATAL SERVICES

- Funded enrollment of **6 expectant mothers**. Cumulative enrollment of **8 expectant mothers**.
- All **8 deliveries** were full-term, live birth, no complications.
- Of the **8 babies** born, **3 transitioned** to the CCP program.



## CENTER-BASED SERVICES/CCP

- 85 children** and their families received services through the Child Care Partnership Program.
- Military-affiliated families comprised **22%** of cumulative enrollment. (An increase of **10%** from the previous program year).
- Children in the program with an IFSP comprised **12%** of cumulative enrollment.
- 36 returning children** enrolled in center-based services.



In February, Early Head Start along with our NC Pre-K and Three School programs, received a **\$4,500** grant from Delta Dental Foundation to support the dental health of children in the community.

The grant allowed all three programs to supply developmentally appropriate learning materials to early educators to support the planning and implementation of activities focused on oral health education, benefitting more than **900 children** and **63 classrooms** in Onslow County. In addition to the oral health learning activities, families received oral health education and support in scheduling appointments with dental providers.



*The grant has allowed our program to implement a renewed focus on oral health education, said **Courtney Wandishin**, NC Pre-K director at One Place. Developmentally appropriate oral health education materials will foster a love of, and excitement for oral health within our children which they will take home to their families and spread into our community.*



# Literacy

Improving early childhood literacy with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library creates opportunities for children to thrive so that they succeed in school and help their communities grow and prosper.

**11,254 children** received books through the Imagination Library during the last fiscal year. Almost **32,293 children** have received books to build their home library since the program began in our community in 2011.

After more than five years, we brought the Raising a Reader program back to Onslow County through a partnership with local family child care homes as part of a summer reading initiative. **16 family child care homes** participated in the program impacting **58 children**.



# Child Advocacy Center

Victims of child abuse and neglect visit the One Place Child Advocacy Center for comprehensive services that begin their journey to hope and healing. Each child receives the opportunity to select a handmade quilt to take home, donated by the Carolina Pine Needle Quilter's Guild.



The quilts not only provide a sense of comfort during forensic interviews and comprehensive medical exams at the CAC but are a reminder to the child, long after they leave the CAC, that they are supported, safe, and loved.

Since opening in 2010 the CAC has received more than **4,000 quilts** from the guild to provide to child victims.

## Read More:

<https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/blog/quilts-provide-a-warm-hug-for-victims-of-abuse/>

# Connecting Families

We connect families and children to helpful resources — from finding the right child care program to helping military families settle in Onslow County. With our services, families become confident, empowered, and engaged with their community.

## CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

**709 families** received resources, information, or referrals to high-quality child care. **38%** of these families were military affiliated.

Staff participated in **4 community outreach opportunities** to share resources and information with families in the community.

One Place staff supported Safe Kids Onslow County in providing **204 parents/caregivers** with child passenger safety education including information on appropriate car seat installation and usage.



Safe Kids Onslow County distributed **77 bicycle helmets** to promote bicycle safety and ensure local children develop proper safety habits.



# Literacy

One Place maintains **57 Little Free Libraries** and **five Story Walks** at area parks throughout the county in an effort to increase literacy and access to books across the community.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a Little Free Library at every elementary school in the county with the exception of the two newest schools in Sneads Ferry and Half Moon.



One Place collaborated with the Onslow County Public Library to launch the Family Place program in April to help ensure all children enter school ready and able to learn, the new Family Place offers:

- A specially designed space in the children's area for families with young children to relax, play, share books, and meet other families.
- Parent-Child Workshops: A five-week series of fun, play-based activities for toddlers and their parents and caregivers. Rich with toys, books, and art activities, the workshops provide an opportunity for families to spend time together, make friends, and talk one-on-one with specialists about various aspects of child development and early literacy.
- Collections of books, toys, music, and multimedia materials for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, parents, and caregivers.
- Libraries specially trained in child development and family support.



# Child Advocacy Center

**243 children** and their families who received services in the CAC, were provided with referrals for victim support services such as support groups, mental health, parent education, health department programs, and preschool programs.

One Place continues to work toward increasing the community's capacity for mental health services for children and adults. In March we hired a Clinical Services Director to manage mental health services and facilitate the expansion of on-site services at the CAC.

## Early Head Start

Enrolled families made the most progress in the following areas with support and resources provided through the EHS program:

- Employment
- Maintaining Sustainable Housing
- Improving Financial Health

Participating families engaged in a variety of activities to promote social connections, engagement, and inspire advocacy including Parent Committee, classroom family events, Health Services Advisory Committee, and Policy Council. Overall, families had about **20 opportunities** to engage with the program.



EHS participated in The Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) program through Medicaid to help families address non-medical issues such as transportation, housing, and food insecurities. The HOP program aims to implement preventative support for families to reduce toxic stress for high-needs Medicaid recipients. **Three EHS families** received resources and support through the HOP program to include gas cards, food cards to help purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, counseling services, and connected with a caseworker for additional support.

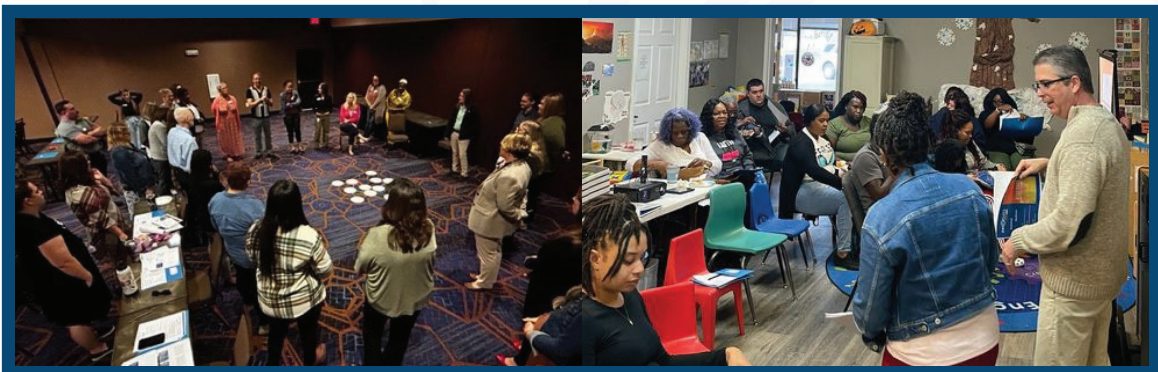
## Ending Child Abuse

All of our programs are designed to serve as protective factors for children and families. When children are hurt through abuse or neglect, our Child Advocacy Center provides hope and healing through individualized services.

### PREVENTION

Ensuring a child's environment includes positive relationships and nurturing experiences early in life can have community-wide benefits for the future to include reduction in child abuse, lowered rates of incarceration, decreased homelessness, and increased high school graduation rates. At One Place our programs for young children aim to support social and emotional development and positively impact their mental health-the foundation for a resilient future.

**93%** of One Place staff have received trauma-informed training through either the Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors Framework and/or Creating Responsive Communities.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Staff held **19 outreach presentations and events** to share the mission and vision of One Place and provide resources and information to the community.
- Shared **52 blogs** to increase community awareness on the mission and work of One Place, share parenting information and resources, and advocate for early care and education.
- Partnered with child abuse prevention advocate Elijah Lee to create a series of blogs and videos and host a Back Porch Chat on mental health and youth advocacy.
- Offered **13 tours** of the organization to share information on our programs, services, and impact on the community.
- Offered **12 Darkness to Light** training opportunities to promote awareness and prevention of child abuse, impacting **109 community members**.
- Launched Foundations for Resilience program to create a more resilient community by partnering with local nonprofit and for-profit organizations to provide training on a variety of topics that promote responsive communities and resiliency. Since its launch in the fall of 2022, Foundations for Resilience has served more than **25 agencies** and more than **600 participants** at more than **70 events** across North Carolina.



**Precious Resources Child Care says:** *The Foundations for Resilience trainings have been of great benefit to the children and families of Precious Resources. This training opportunity has demonstrated to the staff the advantage of a strength-based approach as well as the importance of building positive family relationships. In addition, as a result of the trainings, we have been able to initiate conversations about the Triple P Positive Parenting Program which several families have enrolled in. I would highly recommend the "building responsive communities" trainings to any childcare provider.*



**Randolph County Partnership for Children says:** *We turned to One Place to facilitate a robust training series for us, and they exceeded our expectation in every way...we received great value from the monies invested; and everyone felt their time was well spent. We all certainly agree that the initiative is worthy of investment and support!*



# INTERVENTION

## CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Served a combined total of **671 children** and their associated family members to include siblings, parents, and non-offending caregivers. Since opening in 2010, the CAC has served **3,424 children**.

**220** children received a forensic interview

**196** children received a comprehensive medical exam

**41%** of children served were military dependents

Each case of child abuse or neglect in the Child Advocacy Center costs One Place approximately **\$3,000** to complete.

**60%** of children served in the CAC accessed mental health services to promote ongoing healing and restoration.



*The staff put the child as the priority in all manners. She is very standoffish when in a new environment, but was comfortable here.*

*-Non-offending caregiver*



*The service was exceptional. The staff was wonderful.*

*-Non-offending caregiver*



## ADVANCEMENT

-Continued the silent phase of the capital campaign in support of the SECU Hope Center. Created a Campaign Cabinet with community partners and advocates to help raise funds for the Onslow County Community Campaign in support of the construction project.

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORT SECURED: \$12.1 MILLION

-Groundbreaking for the SECU Hope Center is expected in the fall of 2023 with a grand opening slated for Spring 2025.

-Every dollar counts—and the community's generous support and dedication to One Place's vision made a transformational impact on Onslow County. From supporting early literacy programs, like Story Walks or Little Free Libraries, to providing life-changing services at the Child Advocacy Center, we raised more than **\$150,000** in 2023—all thanks to our donors!

-More than **250 donors/community partners** invested in the mission and work of One Place to help build a more resilient future for Onslow County.

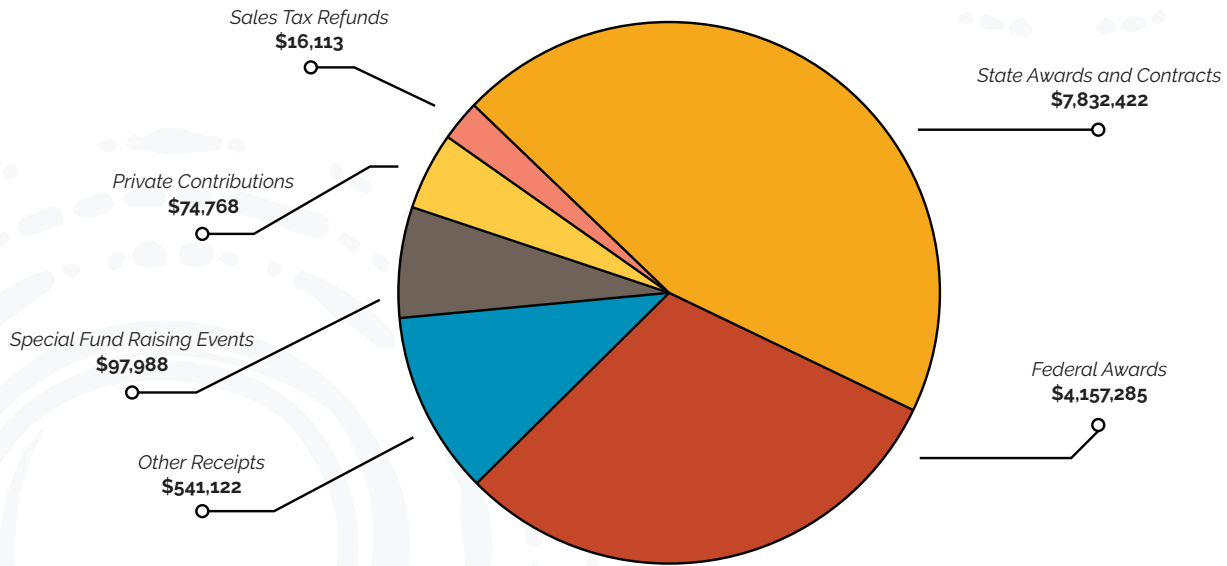
-Hosted Diamonds & Denim 2022 to raise critical funds to support One Place programming and operational costs, raising more than **\$143,000**.

Diamonds & Denim By the Numbers:

- 102** Sponsors
- 27%** First-time sponsors
- 8%** Sponsors who increased their level of support

# Financials

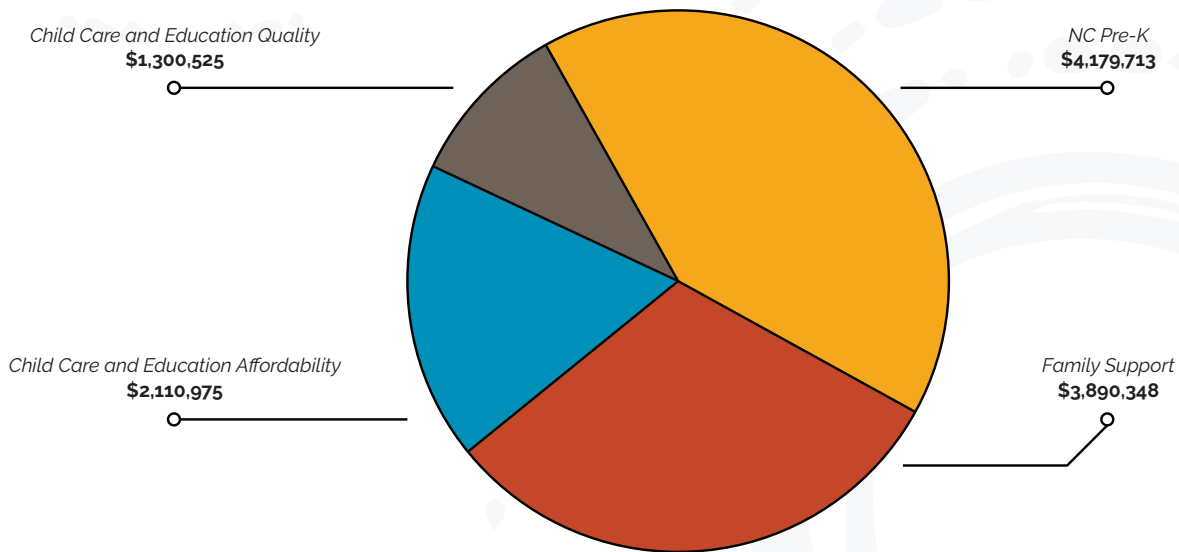
## RECEIPTS



**TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$12,719,698**

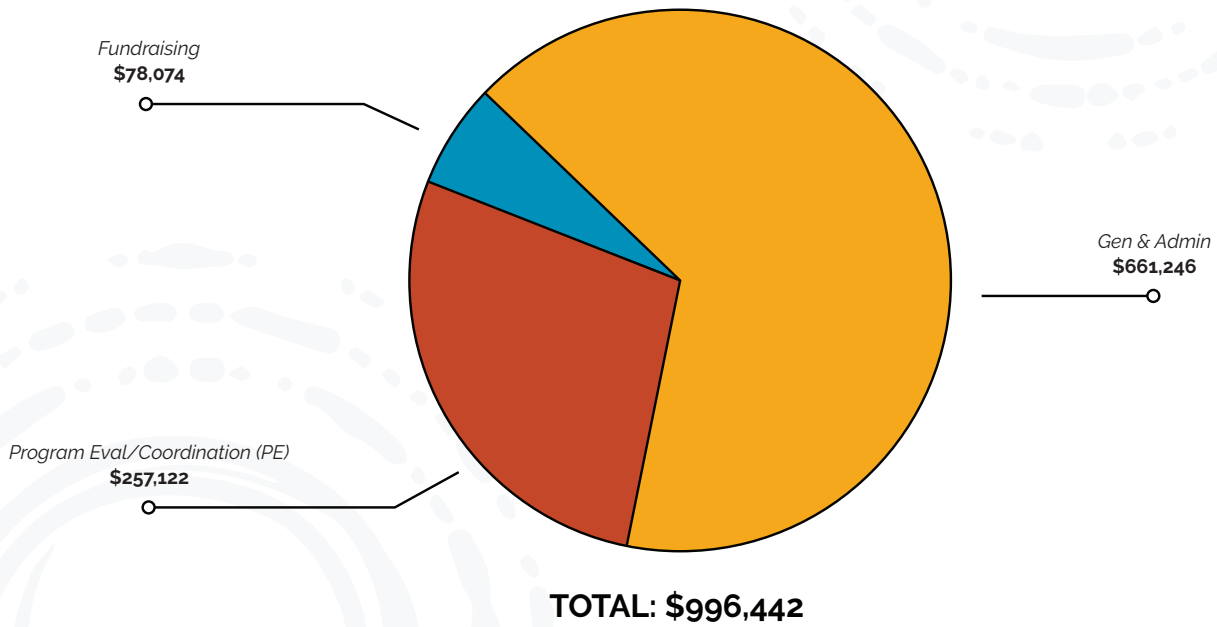
# Expenditures

## PROGRAMS

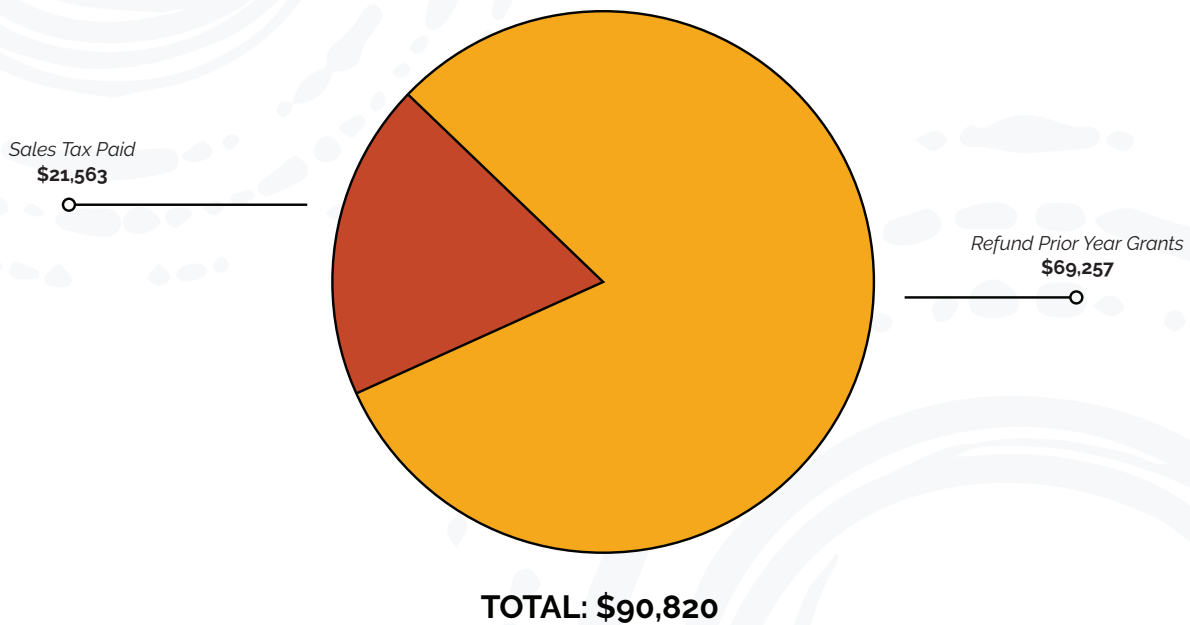


**TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$11,481,561**

## ADMIN & SUPPORT



## OTHER



**TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$12,568,823**

More than **91%** of funding went to program implementation and support.

# What's Next

## CAPITAL PROJECT:

- Break ground in fall 2023 on SECU Hope Center
- Launch public phase of the capital campaign to garner community support for the project, anticipated grand opening Spring 2025
- Re-launch Community Services Day. This event brings together community organizations to share resources and information to better serve the community.
- Expand mental health services to include on-site staff
- Expand Foundations for Resilience program to reach additional local businesses and nonprofits and further impact the community.

## Get involved

Make a difference today! Help us strengthen children, connect families, and end child abuse.



### ADVOCATE

- Follow us and share our posts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Coordinate a book drive to fill Little Free Libraries throughout the county.
- Read and share our blog: [www.oneplaceonslow.org/our-blog/](http://www.oneplaceonslow.org/our-blog/)



### HOST

- Hold a meeting or host an event on behalf of One Place.  
Contact Jennifer Johnson at **910-353-1103** or [jennifer.johnson@oneplaceonslow.org](mailto:jennifer.johnson@oneplaceonslow.org)



### GIVE

- Invest in the future of Onslow County. Make a one-time or recurring donation at [www.oneplaceonslow.org](http://www.oneplaceonslow.org) or by calling **910-353-1103**