

Item Title: Establish Two Full-Time Positions for the Child Care Subsidy Program

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners establish two (2) full-time equivalent (FTE) Human Services Case Managers for the Child Care Subsidy Program to conduct eligibility determination and provide case management services to families.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all new FTE positions added to the FY19 Adopted Ordinance.

Background: In June 2018, the Board adopted the annual budget for FY19 which included preliminary State estimates for Child Care Subsidy and Smart Start funding. In July 2018, the State allocation for FY19 Wake County was released, adding an additional \$4.8 million for Child Care Subsidy and \$580,000 for Smart Start Subsidy to the County's annual allocation. This will enable Wake County to serve an additional 1,119 children. To address the increased capacity two additional case managers are needed in the Child Care Subsidy program.

Board Goal: This aligns with the Board's educational goal to expand capacity and access to child care programs through public private partnerships.

Fiscal Impact: The County will receive an additional \$360,141 from State Child Care Subsidy Funds and \$26,491 from Smart Start funds for administration of Wake County's Child Care Subsidy Program. Sufficient funds are currently appropriated in the Human Services budget to cover the additional funds. The positions are 100% State funded requiring no increase in County funds.

Additional Information:

Wake County Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program administers approximately 4,881 State-funded child care vouchers allowing children age 0-12 from low-income families to access quality child care.

In June 2018, the Board of Commissioners adopted the annual budget for FY19 which included preliminary State-estimates for Child Care and Smart Start Subsidy and Administration funding and the creation of two new positions.

In July 2018, the State allocation of Child Care Subsidy Funds for FY19 was released, increasing preliminary estimates for voucher and administration funding to serve more Wake County children. The County received an additional \$4.8 million voucher allocation and \$580,000 for Smart Start Subsidy, which can now serve approximately 1,119

additional children. This would bring the program capacity to 6,000 children. The voucher funds flow directly between the State and the individual child care facilities and are not contained in Wake County's Budget.

The following table displays Wake County's annual allocation for the Child Care Subsidy program for current and prior fiscal years. The Admin allocation comes directly to the County, whereas the Subsidy allocation remains at the State:

Admin Allocation	FY 2015 Amended Budget	FY 2016 Amended Budget	FY 2017 Amended Budget	FY 2018 Amended Budget	FY 2019 Amended Budget
Smart Start	\$ 188,257	\$ 88,257	\$ 188,257	\$ 188,257	\$ 214,748
State	\$1,203,172	\$1,225,843	\$1,290,218	\$1,343,374	\$1,690,367
Total Admin	\$1,391,429	\$1,414,100	\$1,478,475	\$1,531,631	\$1,905,115
Subsidy Allocation	FY 2015 Amended Budget	FY 2016 Amended Budget	FY 2017 Amended Budget	FY 2018 Amended Budget	FY 2019 Amended Budget
Smart Start	\$ 4,878,657	\$ 4,706,415	\$ 4,706,415	\$ 4,780,553	\$ 5,368,710
State	\$28,247,151	\$29,419,572	\$30,864,127	\$35,729,374	\$40,568,797
Total Subsidy	\$33,125,808	\$34,125,987	\$35,570,542	\$40,509,927	\$45,937,507
Grand Total	\$34,517,237	\$35,540,087	\$37,049,017	\$42,041,558	\$47,842,622

The administration portion of the Child Care Subsidy Program is contained in Wake County's Budget. For FY19 the County received an increase in administrative dollars from both the State and Smart Start. The increase is displayed in the table below.

Organization	Organization Name	FY19 Adopted Budget	FY19 Amended Budget	Increase
1000-46145H-S476	Child Care Subsidy Admin	\$1,330,226	\$1,690,367	\$360,141
1000-46145H-S314	Smart Start Admin	\$ 188,257	\$ 214,748	\$ 26,491
	Total	\$1,518,483	\$1,905,115	\$386,632

Child Care subsidy staff are working diligently to reduce the wait list by inviting 2,852 families that have been on the wait list since March 2017 to apply for services. All these families will have an appointment to apply by February 2019. To manage this increased caseload, two additional case managers are requested.

Attachments:

1. Allocation of Child Care Subsidy Funds for State Fiscal Year 2018-2019
2. Summary of SFY 17-18 Non-Smart Start Subsidized Child Care Allocations
3. Smart Start Subsidy MOU#2 FY18-19
4. Smart Start Subsidy Attachment#2 budget FY18-19
5. Budget Memo

