

TAKE CARE

North Carolina's child care crisis
affects everyone.



Background

Our nation relies on quality child care to support children's healthy development and learning, allow parents to work, and keep businesses running. Yet, child care is in crisis—one that has been decades in the making and was exacerbated by the pandemic.

While child care is foundational to our state and country's wellbeing, it is built on a flawed and unsustainable funding model. Parents cannot afford to pay more. Providers and teachers can't earn enough to make a living. Government and private investment are woefully inadequate. As a result, teachers cannot afford to stay in the profession and are leaving for jobs at convenience stores and gas stations that pay more, child care classrooms struggle to stay open, and employers are losing workers.

This hurts everyone—children, families, child care teachers and providers, businesses, and our economy. The end of emergency funding to help stabilize child care has further worsened the crisis.

Take Care is intended to spark discussion and spur action to solve the crisis. Through the voices and stories of North Carolina families, child care teachers, businesses, and community leaders, Take Care provides a firsthand account of how this crisis is impacting all of us, how communities are trying to address the crisis, and what is at stake if we don't create lasting solutions.

Details

Take Care is 21 minutes and was created from more than 8 hours of video interviews conducted from November, 2023 through April, 2024. The producers crossed the state with a focus on Wilmington, Rocky Mount, and Clay County.

Take Care was produced by Neimand Collaborative and SeeBoundless with funding from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Format and Distribution

Take Care is available online at TakeCareNC.com. We encourage organizations to host community screenings of Take Care. A toolkit is available at TakeCareNC.com.

Featuring

Carolyn Slade
Director, St Stephen's
Loving Daycare
Center

David Farris
President & CEO, Rocky
Mount Area Chamber of
Commerce

Deidre McMahon
Interim Executive
Director, Southwestern
Child Development
Commission Inc.

Erin Leford
Physical Therapist, Clay
County Schools

Gabrielle Kira McClure
Teacher, Quality
Childcare
Northchase

Gary Boettcher, Ph.D.
Director, Quality
Childcare Northchase

Haven Phillips
Child Protective
Services Supervisor,
Clay County
Department of Social
Services

John C. Moore
Helpdesk Supervisor,
Quality Chemical Labs

Liz Bell
Early Childhood
Reporter, EducationNC

Parnell Bryant
Human Resource
Director, Cummins
Rocky Mount Engine
Plant

Rob Zapple
Commissioner, New
Hanover County

Sarah Prezioso
Professor and
Department Chair
of Public Services,
Nash Community
College

Tamika Bethea
Supply Quality
Improvement
Technician, Cummins
Rocky Mount Engine
Plant

Todd Goins
Director of Social
Services, Clay County
Department of Social
Services

Yousry Sayed
President & CEO,
Quality Chemical Labs

Take Care looks at the **child care crisis in North Carolina**,
how it affects everyone, and what's at stake if we don't fix it.

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