



The Enola Group

2023-2024 Annual Report

MISSION

To educate children and their families, adults with intellectual disabilities and communities through creativity and opportunities.

A Message from Kathy Smith, Board Chair



The Enola Group (TEG) has had an exciting year of growth. We maintained our service quality and took on new endeavors while staying mission minded and committed to our core values. We were motivated to focus on initiatives of our organization and to further strengthen collaborations within the communities we serve. Two major projects this year included finding new facilities for the Community Engagement department and the Caldwell Early Head Start. Our search was successful, and we learned a lot about zoning, planning, and permits with the help of the Cities of Morganton and Lenoir.

The Child and Family Services Early Head Start and Private Child Care programs flourished. Alexander County added a new classroom, expanded its garden, and participated in numerous community events. After looking at a number of buildings, selecting one and then being told that it would not work for child care, staff happened upon a sign at the Fairview Church that led us to our new Caldwell Early Head Start location. We will begin remodeling soon. Burke County has been going strong. Our agreement with the town of Hildebran for Buster Bus mobile PreK was renewed with support from Mayor Wendell Hildebrand, Town Manager, Logan Shook and town council members. Also Building Blocks child care center in Icard is fully enrolled and hopefully will be opening another classroom.

Adult Services has continued to provide outstanding programming and services to 31 people through Alternative Family Living and Signature Day Program services. Our partnership with West Union Art Studio continues to create a way for artists to showcase and sell their art work. We recently dedicated a painting and plaque to Jerry's Neighborhood Market for their continuous support, and Neighborhood Connect continues to provide afternoon classes, activities and camaraderie among its members.

Board of Directors

Kathy Smith, Board Chair
Mark Poteat, Vice Chair
Martin Sohovich,
Treasurer and Secretary
Jordyn Herrmann, EHS
Policy Council Chair
Amanda White
Meghan Welty
Pam Hollar
Mary Ann O'Neil
Louis Vinay

The Burluson House, a historic home in Morganton, was purchased and will house our Community Engagement department. Renovations are underway and community activities are being planned. Plans include offering a drop-in child care service, art/pottery classes, and tea service. In addition, the 3 Rs Project funded by the Dogwood Health Trust to strengthen the early childhood educator workforce is in its second year. Many collaborations that focus on generating resources to the community are happening.

It is apparent to me and others that more people are familiar with and recognize The Enola Group for quality services and community collaborations. Some of our collaborative partners include Western Piedmont Community College, Dogwood Health Trust, Caldwell Community College, Smart Start, Partners Behavioral Health, Vaya, Public Schools, Rotary, Burke Women's Fund, and more. As we grow, reflect and learn, we continue to ground our work in our mission and continue to perfect our services, resources and practices in the communities we serve.

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SIGNATURE DAY and FAMILY LIVING (AFL) PROGRAMS



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adult Services has wrapped up another wonderful year, marked by a wide variety of activities and services that enhanced the lives of 31 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dedicated teams consistently provided a supportive environment encouraging personal growth for all.

Signature Day Program (SDP) offered an array of services designed to ensure that every participant had access to fulfilling and enriching experiences, while also offering skills training that focused on teaching and improving independent living skills. In collaboration with Western Piedmont Community College, participants had the opportunity to engage in educational experiences through College and Career Readiness classes. SDP also emphasized community involvement, with participants and staff actively engaging in community walks, park outings, swimming at recreational centers, gym workouts and Special Olympics. Their dedication to community service was reflected in their volunteering efforts and organization of a can food drive, hygiene bag “give away,” community litter sweep, and winter clothes donations. Signature Society, a group of SDP participants, met monthly to form ideas for community service projects and provide program feedback.

SDP offered creative activities, including painting, pottery, karaoke, and music, all designed to promote goal setting, peer support, and friendship development. Seven individuals received support from staff while gaining work experience at local businesses including Ingle’s, Long Horn Steakhouse, Carolina Diner, and the City of Morganton. Our ongoing partnership with West Union Art Studios enabled SDP artists to volunteer and sell their artwork. This year, SDP also participated in the Waldensian Festival and sold pottery and art. SDP had its first yard sale of donated items, and what wasn’t sold was donated to the Restore, INC and Options. All proceeds from the festival and yard sale went back into SDP. Also, this year SDP artists were invited to display their art at the Floyd Art Center, Floyd Va and Fonta Flora Brewery, Morganton.

Neighborhood Connect is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by offering a range of activities in a secure and supportive environment. Neighborhood Connect has served up to 22 members from Burke and surrounding counties. Participants have had the opportunity to enjoy social gatherings at local venues, express their creativity through pottery and crafts, partake in lively karaoke sessions, engage in stretching and exercise classes, dine out, explore cooking, attend Morganton Live for musical performances, and enjoy various games. Through Neighborhood Connect, participants forged meaningful friendships and strengthened their ties to the community.

The **Alternative Family Living (AFL)** program supports thirteen individuals who live in AFL residences with two homes being licensed by NC DHHS, which is an increase of two participants from last year. This program is designed to help participants either maintain or cultivate essential independent living skills in a nurturing family environment. The participants are learning essential skills in budgeting, daily living, and social interactions and are given opportunities to engage in a range of events planned by AFL providers.





EARLY HEAD START and EARLY LEARNING CENTERS



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained higher than 90% average monthly attendance in classrooms.
- Provided 27 women with prenatal and health care education and information on the benefits of breastfeeding.
- Maintained North Carolina 5 Star Rated Child Care licenses in our Early Head Start and Early Learning Centers.
- Engaged 45% or more of fathers/male caregivers in child development and early education learning activities with their children.
- Served 21 families who experienced homelessness which was 10% of enrollment.
- Served more than 41,000 meals to children in center-based services.
- Expanded services to Eastern Burke county by opening 2 private childcare classrooms.
- Hosted multicultural celebrations to share food, activities and information.
- Increased mental health supports by hiring a full-time Mental Health Practitioner/In-Home Educator in Caldwell.

School Readiness - Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Developmental Expectations

Social Emotional	85%	Cognitive	90%
Language	80%	Literacy	83%
Physical Development			91%

Health Services for Children

- 294 (100%) children had an ongoing source of health care
- 287 (97%) had Medicaid, private or other health insurance
- 291 (99%) were up-to-date on immunizations
- 62 additional children had increased access to ongoing dental care
- 59 children with developmental delays or identified disabilities were served

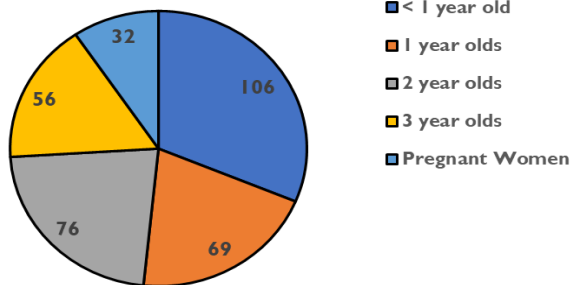
“The program has fostered curiosity and discovery. It has taught my child how to interact with others outside the family and has provided advice and assistance to me as I navigate being a mother and grandparent .”
- Parent.

Enrollment by Eligibility Category

	#	%
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	121	39
Income between 100-130% of federal poverty line	19	5
Receipt of public assistance	116	36
Foster Care	17	5
Homelessness	25	8
Over Income	23	7

“They helped by meeting us where we were, offering programs to our families (cooking matters, parenting classes, etc.) and giving and finding information.”
-Parent

Number of EHS Population Served



Family Services - Provided or Mobilized Services for Families

• Emergency/Crisis Intervention	106	• Substance Misuse Prevention	23	• Education/Job Training	38	• Postpartum Care	40
• Housing Assistance	34	• Substance Misuse Treatment	10	• Parenting Education	247	• Transition to Pre-K	125
• Mental Health	42	• Assistance to Incarcerated Persons	5	• Health Education	251	• ESL Training	36
• Relationship/Marriage Education	19			• Nutrition Education	250	A total of 254 families were served by Early Head Start.	
				• Tobacco Use Education	73		
				• Asset-Building Education	82		



The Enola Group

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Grants Received:

The **Community Engagement** department focused on building relationships, identifying service area gaps, and securing funding to fill those gaps. We were awarded several small grants that allowed for a big impact in our community!

- To provide the **Stewards of Children by Darkness to Light** child sexual abuse prevention training to Spanish-speaking Burke community members:
\$8,337 from the Burke Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Burke County
- To support the unmet dental needs of children and adults uninsured and enrolled in Early Head Start:
\$4,000 from the Grace Episcopal Church Foundation
- To support the **Adult Services Neighborhood Connect** program, the following grants provided activity coaches and materials for individual and group activities:
\$2,000 from the Huffman-Cornwell Foundation, and \$6,140 from the J. Alex and Vivian G. Mull Foundation Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Burke County
- To support the **Healthy Habits Early On** project at Building Blocks, funds provided indoor and outdoor gross motor toys, take-home healthy activity kits, gross motor activity book, children's cooking supplies, and a garden:
\$5,000 from the Gateway Wellness Foundation
- To address diaper needs in Burke County, funds provided for the creation of the **Cozy Bottoms Cloth Diaper Bank**:
\$4,370 from the Rotary Club of Morganton Ohana Mud Run



facilities in Burke County to build and strengthen the early childhood education workforce. In its first 18 months, the project provided Practice-Based Coaching to 24 early childhood educators in 6 licensed facilities. Eighteen students have been recruited into the field by enrolling in coursework and receiving on-the-job experience in facilities. Three students are now employed full-time in centers. By providing professional development, mental health and wellness support, and individual attention, early childhood education in our community is strengthened.

Outcomes of the project:

- Increase in ECE competence 92%
- Increase in students' ECE knowledge/job readiness skills 100%
- Students employed after HS 33%
- Students pursuing further ECE education 39%.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way classes:

- 32 parents completed this 6-week parenting class

Cozy Bottoms Cloth Diaper Bank:

- 18 parents have utilized cloth diapers with their child/children

The Three Rs Project

The Dogwood Health Trust funded program **The Three Rs: Recruitment, Retention, and Reinforcement of the Early Childhood Education** project is a partnership between The Enola Group, Western Piedmont Community College, and licensed childcare

"Helping teachers continually improve is important as well as growing the pipeline for future teachers is vital."
- Center Director

"I love this project. I wouldn't have continued teaching if not for The Enola Group. I never stop learning about being a better teacher and I feel like I have unlimited resources and support."
- Educator

ADMINISTRATION and MANAGEMENT

The Enola Group program administrative offices are in Morganton, NC with other program locations and services offered in Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell counties. The Enola Group, a non-profit organization has over 40 years of experience and offers high-quality services and resources for young children and their families, adults with intellectual and developmental delays and disabilities, and people who are pregnant. The program receives funding from a number of sources, such as the Office of Head Start, State grants and resources, mental health agencies, foundations, and private donors and sources.

Management Personnel

- Linda Wilson, Executive Director
- Terri Brown, Finance Director
- Liz Curtis, Adult Services Director
- Dawn Curtin, Child and Family Services and Early Head Start Director
- Nancy Wood, Community Engagement Director

Employees

The Enola Group employs 87 employees with 68 working full-time and 19 working part-time.

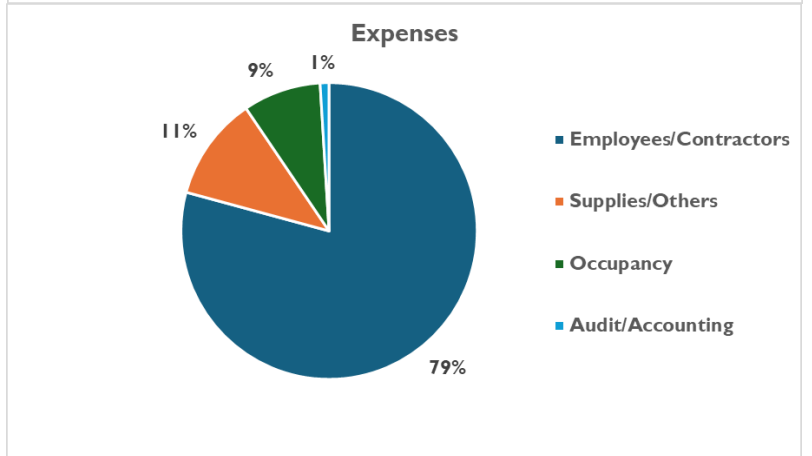
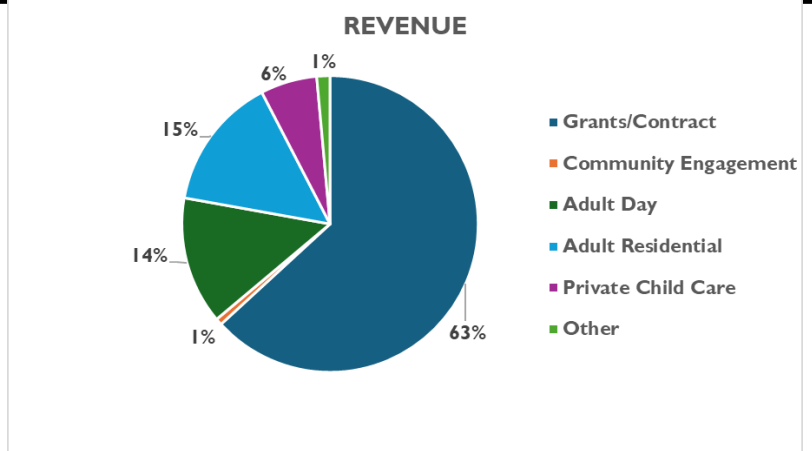
Accreditation

Adult Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.



Certification

This year the program was recognized as a Family Forward NC certified employer.



“The Enola Group is a NC Family Forward organization. I enjoy my job and feel proud of the work we do.”

- Employee



EARLY HEAD START EXPENDITURES

Salaries	55%	Supplies	4%
Fringe Benefits	19%	Technical Assistance and Training	2%
Contractual	3%	Operational & Administrative Costs (utilities, rent, staff mileage, parent services, etc.)	17%

In-Kind Contributions totaled \$722,954. The Enola Group received \$3,134,747 in the 2023-2024 program year to implement the Early Head Start program with a funded enrollment of 200 children for 12 months per year. Early Head Start is federally funded through the Office of Head Start. The Enola Group Early Head Start program serves eligible children and their families and people who are pregnant.