



# The Enola Group

## 2021-2022 Annual Report

### VISION

To provide a progressive, creative, forward thinking environment, rich in opportunities for infants, young children, adults, expectant mothers, and families to reach their full potential.

### MISSION

To provide structure and guidance, joy and meaning for individuals and families through evidence based practices, art, education, and other creative approaches.

## A Message from Kathy Smith, Board Chair



First, I would like to thank Wendy Cato for over ten years of service as board chair to the Enola Group. Her leadership has been impeccable and an example to follow. Through her leadership, the Enola Group has seen much growth in 2021-22, and we look forward to continued growth as we forge ahead with new, innovative ideas and projects.

We are very proud of the Adult Services Program which was awarded reaccreditation from the Council on Accreditation for the next 3 years, meeting the highest national standards in practice excellence. Adult Services also added new participants to the Signature Day Program and one more Alternative Family Living home to serve participants. Additionally, the *Neighborhood Connect* project was created to expand the offering of activities and build community connections for the adults we serve. *Signature Society* a participant advisory council was revived and includes participant-led community service projects, such as building a garden bed for a community member, participating in a community litter sweep, and collecting personal care items for people in need.

Another source of pride for us is our Child and Family Services and Early Head Start program in Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell Counties. Our child care centers maintain their 5-star licenses from the State, delivering high quality services to children and families. The federal review of our Early Head Start in January went smoothly, and the final report acknowledged our performance and compliance with the requirement of the Head Start Performance Standards.

Going forward, our creation of a new Community Engagement Department will focus on strengthening partnerships among other agencies and within the community. As a result, the program acquired and retrofitted the Mobile Preschool Buster Bus formally owned by Burke County Public Schools. The newly renovated Buster is now located at the Hildebran Town Hall to serve children and their families.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the staff, directors, and fellow board members for the work, dedication, and community service which is put forth each day. ***“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop”*** -Dorothy Height.

### Board of Directors

Kathy Smith, *Board Chair*

Mark Poteat, *Vice Chair*

Martin Sohovich,  
*Treasurer and Secretary*

Trish Cordero, *EHS  
Policy Council Chair*

Amanda White

Meghan Welty

Wendy Cato

Pam Hollar

Marianne O'Neil

Louis Vinay

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Facebook: Signature Day  
Program

Child and Family Services  
Alexander Early Head Start &  
Early Learning Center  
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Taylorsville, NC 28681  
828.635.1479 P • 828.635.1469 F  
Facebook: Alexander Early Head Start

Child and Family Services  
Burke Early Head Start &  
Early Learning Center  
501 E Concord St.  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828.475.0107 P • 828.475.1086 F  
Facebook: Burke Early Head Start

Child and Family Services  
Caldwell Early Head Start &  
Early Learning Center  
609 Harper Ave.  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
828.757.8632 P • 828.757.8633 F  
Facebook: Caldwell Early Head Start



## SIGNATURE DAY and SIGNATURE LIVING PROGRAMS

### A GREAT YEAR OF ACTIVITY AND SERVICE

**Signature Day Program (SDP)** has had another great year in its mission to provide structure and guidance, joy and meaning for participants and their families. Although not completely out of the “COVID woods”, the facility has been able to provide classes and community engagement on a regular schedule. By continuing to use safety measures, such as screening, and consistent cleaning, we were able to move to “mask ready” as an alternative to all masks all the time. Masks are worn as needed and CDC guidelines are monitored to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

SDP staff have made a conscientious effort to create an environment that is supportive and nurtures growth for all the people we serve as they work to achieve their goals. This year, twenty-five people attended the day program with fourteen direct support professionals and three administration staff members providing **26,540 service hours**. The average attendance rate was 90%.

Western Piedmont Community College continued to offer College and Career Readiness classes to Signature Day Program participants twice a week. Community Networking resumed so staff and clients took advantage of being out in the community by taking walks, visiting community parks, going swimming, working out at the gym, gardening, and participating in other outside adventures. Indoor SDP activities included painting, pottery, karaoke, movement, and music, as well as participating in activities that address individual goals, and peer-to-peer socializing and making friends. Supported Employment served as an opportunity for those who

worked to receive guidance from staff while learning new job skills. It also provided a chance to earn money and build upon daily living skills. Seven people were supported in their jobs at Ingle’s, Long Horn Steakhouse, and City of Morganton. Our program affiliation with West Union Art Studios created an opportunity for three SDP participants to volunteer, create and sell their art while at the studio and allows for other SDP artists to sell their work at the gallery. Artist sales totaled \$4,225.55 this past year.

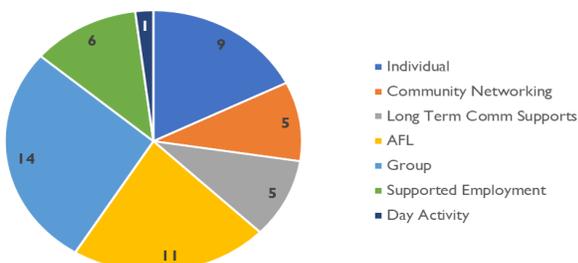


**Signature Living** supports eleven people who reside in Alternative Family Living (AFL) homes. The program enables participants to maintain or develop self-care skills within a family setting. Participants learn budgeting, daily living skills, social engagement and attend events with their AFL provider family. This year a total of **3539 days of residential support has been provided**.

**Neighborhood Connect** a project funded by the Gateway Wellness Foundation has served 16 people in the past 9 months. The project aims to help adults with disabilities to access and participate in a variety of community activities in a safe and meaningful way. Activities include opportunities to socialize, make friends, learn something new, and participate as independently as possible in aspects of community life.



Number Served in Each Service Area





**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 43% more of fathers/male caregivers in child development and education learning activities
- Served 26 (10% ) of enrolled families who experienced homelessness
- Served 38,466 meals to children in center-based services
- Refitted full-sized school bus into a mobile classroom to provide group socializations, preschool activities, and recruit families to enroll in eastern Burke County
- Hosted resource event in Alexander County to inform parents and community members of available resources
- Organized a parent connect event to provide opportunities for parents to work together to develop networks of support amongst each other
- A total of 253 families were served in Early Head Start
- A total of 44 children and families were served by the Early Learning Centers

**School Readiness—Percentage of Children Meeting or Exceeding Developmental Expectations**

Social Emotional	90%	Cognitive	88%
Language	82%	Literacy	85%
Physical Development			85%

**Health Services for Children**

- 300 (99%) children had an ongoing source of health care
- 295 (97%) had Medicaid, private or other health insurance
- 294 (97%) up-to-date on immunizations
- Increased access to ongoing dental care for 72 additional children
- Served 55 children with developmental delays or identified disabilities

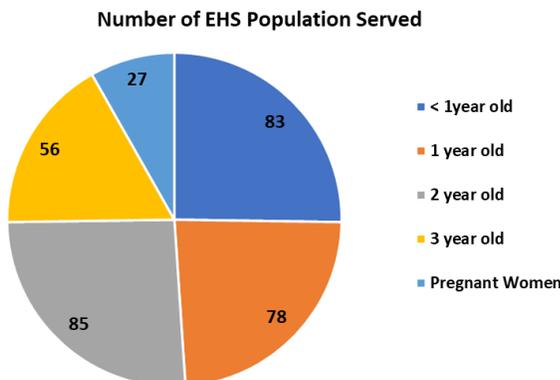
*“The Program is always there for my family. They advocate, educate and support families. I feel so happy my family is a part of this program.”* - Parent

*“I liked the way they help us learn about my child’s play, I feel like I am a good mom and that I am doing the right things to help my child.”* - Parent

**Enrollment by Eligibility Category**

	#	%
Income below 100% of federal poverty line	231	70
Income between 100-130% of federal poverty line	28	9
Receipt of public assistance	30	10
Foster Care	9	3
Homelessness	26	8
Over Income	23	8

**Number of EHS Population Served**



**Family Services - Provided or Mobilized Services for Families**

• Emergency/crisis intervention	100	• Education/Job Training	62	• Health Education	215
• Housing Assistance	44	• Parenting Education	239	• Nutrition Education	211
• Mental Health	48	• Transition to PreK	130	• Postpartum Care	33
• Substance Misuse Prevention	28	• ESL Training	44	• Relationship/Marriage Education	9
• Substance Misuse Treatment	9	• Tobacco Use Education	90	• Assistance to Incarcerated Individuals	3
		• Asset-building	70		

## ADMINISTRATION and MANAGEMENT

### **The Enola Group, Inc.**

Program administrative offices are in Morganton, NC with program locations and services offered in Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell counties. The Enola Group is a non-profit organization with over 40 years of experience and offers innovative services for adults with intellectual and developmental delays and disabilities, infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families, and women who are pregnant. The Enola Group receives and operates with federal, state, contract, and private funds.

### **Management Personnel**

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

### **Employees**

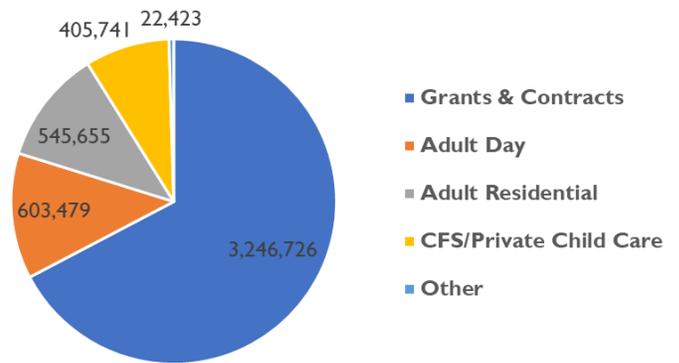
The Enola Group employs 79 employees with 63 working full-time and 16 working part-time.

### **Accreditation**

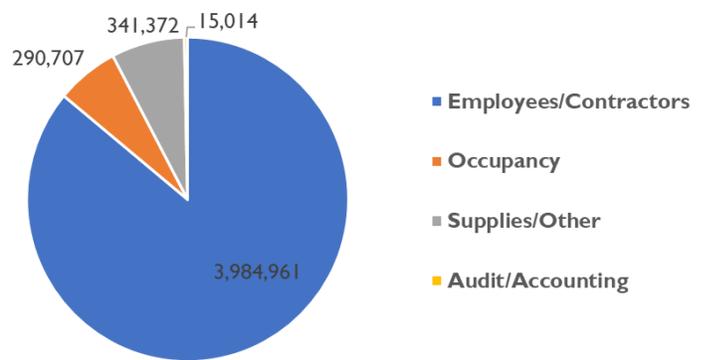


Adult Services is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

**Revenue**



**Expenses**



***“I enjoy my job and feel like I am supporting and contributing to the program mission, meeting my professional goals and helping others to achieve their goals.”***  
**- Employee**

## EARLY HEAD START EXPENDITURES

Salaries	55%	Supplies	5%
Fringe Benefits	17%	Technical Assistance and Training	2%
Contractual	2%	Operational & Administrative Costs (utilities, rent staff mileage, parent services, etc.)	19%

In-Kind Contributions totaled +\$694,986. The Enola Group received \$2,779,944 in 2020-2021 program year to implement the Early Head Start program with a funded enrollment of 200 children for 12 months per year. COVID-19 related funds were \$175,762. Early Head Start is federally funded through the Office of Head Start. The Enola Group Early Head Start program serves eligible children and families and women who are pregnant.