



## Hope for Children and Families News from Onslow County

Welcome to the August edition of our newsletter! As we close out the final month of summer, we have some exciting updates and opportunities to share.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for information, photos, and updates about what's happening at One Place.

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### Advancing Our Mission: Strategic Priorities UPDATE

We continue to progress toward realizing all of the goals of our strategic priorities:

- **Sustainability**
  - Improve brand recognition and reputation
  - Create positive, sustainable change within the organization
  - Develop succession plans for key leaders
  - Diversify funding streams
- **Strategic Expansion**
  - Identify areas for needs-based growth
  - Build liquid net assets
  - Implement efficient processes and procedures
  - Increase community impact
- **Cultivation & Stewardship**
  - Cultivate donors and stakeholders to develop ownership in our mission
  - Continuously work to engage donors/stakeholders in conversation
  - Create experiences that add depth to the connection of our mission
  - Ensure strong stewardship that builds trust in our organization

## Progress:

- Recently, the Sneads Ferry Rotary Club presented One Place with a check for \$25,000 to start an endowment with the NC Community Foundation to expand availability of mental health treatment to children receiving services in the One Place Child Advocacy Center. They have a goal to raise \$1 million by 2025. This will support sustainability of services and diversifies our funding streams.
  - In January, we stood up on-site mental health care for children receiving services in the One Place Child Advocacy Center. Staff practitioners offer trauma-informed, evidence-based, wrap-around therapy services to victims of child abuse and their families, including collaboration with victim advocates and the victim's health care provider to allow for a more holistic approach to healing. This is another step toward our vision to increase the community's capacity for mental health services for children.
  - We continue to strengthen relationships and collaborate with community partners to better serve children and families in Onslow County through education, outreach, and systems building.
  - One Place was certified as a Family Forward workplace. Family forward NC is an innovative initiative to improve children's health and well-being and keep North Carolina's businesses competitive. As a designated employer, we offer policies and practices that support the health and well-being of working families and children. This supports the sustainability of our organization
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Join Our Facebook Group



Earlier this month we launched the One Place Preschool Programs Facebook group to provide information and updates specific to One Place's Early Childhood Education/Preschool Programs to include Early Head Start, Three School, and NC Pre-K.

If you're a parent, caregiver, or community partner [we invite you to join us!](#)

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## News from the One Place Child Advocacy Center

This month the One Place Child Advocacy Center celebrates 14 years of serving victims of child abuse and neglect with critical services like comprehensive

medical exams, forensic interviews, and family advocacy.

More than 3,400 children have received services and support since the CAC opened in 2010. Recent funding cuts stand to impact services at the CAC.

"We anticipate a cut of more than \$200,000 to our operations. This means we will have to seek new funding sources to cover the cost of our mental health and medical staff and will impact our ability to offer the vital community support that Onslow County has come to expect from us." -*Dawn Rochelle, CEO of One Place*

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# A Solid Place to Grow

Shrinking federal funding and surging community need are forcing child crime victims to wait longer for care. What can be done?



For more than four decades and in nearly 1,000 communities nationwide, Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) have provided evidence-based, child-centered care for children victimized by abuse and their families. Yet when funding cuts and increased care costs collide with a burgeoning youth mental health crisis, this critical community resource is no longer guaranteed. CACs are cutting services or even closing their doors. What can we do to help?

## How CACs protect children, with our help

In 2023, National Children's Alliance (NCA) member CACs served **more than 380,000 children**, offering more than 3 million hours of therapy each year, plus medical exams, courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and other services. But they don't do it alone.

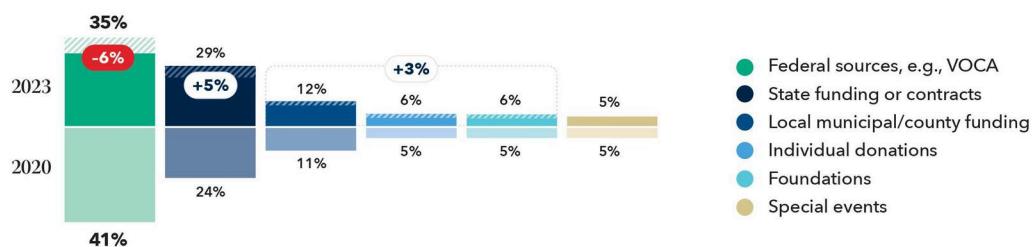
The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) provides funding for victim services through the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), and VOCA has become an important source of support for CACs across the country. In 2020, federal funding—largely from VOCA—accounted for 41% of all CACs' funding nationally, according to NCA CAC Census data.

## How the cuts are affecting kids

Unfortunately, CACs have witnessed a decline in support from federal funding, particularly VOCA. By 2023, federal funding made up just 35% of total CAC funding, a 16% overall national decline in federal support for the services children need.

CACs have worked hard to backfill the loss of federal funding with state and local funding and support from private donors. But many state and local government replacement funding sources are temporary, one-time appropriations. Other funding sources, like individual giving or special events, are unpredictable and often have high overhead costs for nonprofits. No other source offers the stability and scale that federal funding can provide for critical services to child crime victims.

Federal Funding Challenges for the Child Advocacy Field



## Rising costs + growing need = longer waits

- **Youth are in a mental health crisis, and need is skyrocketing.** A troubling trend: 46% of psychiatrists reporting increases in teenage clients between 2020 and 2022. The federal government estimates that fully half the U.S. population currently lives in a mental health provider shortage area. Children often come to CACs experiencing mental health crises that began even before the abuse.
- **Children are waiting longer to get treatment, harming their recovery.** Almost 4-in-10 CACs report clients must wait a month or longer to get an initial mental health appointment. In 2020, monthlong waits were only half as common. This wait for services can harm the child's chances at interrupting the development of PTSD. Research shows that delivering treatment as soon as possible after the abuse event or after disclosure can reduce the likelihood that a child who has experienced trauma will develop PTSD.

### Average Wait Times for Mental Health Treatments in the Community (2023 CAC Member Census)

AVERAGE WAIT TIME IN COMMUNITY	PROPORTION OF CACS' REPORTING THIS WAIT TIME	
	2020	2023
14 or fewer days	52%	31%
15 to 31 days	24%	26%
31 to 60 days	11%	21%
61 to 90 days	4%	8%
More than 90 days	6%	9%

## How you can help children heal and thrive

CACs need predictable federal funding that ensures their critical services continue to be available to children across the United States. Currently, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have Crime Victims Fund Stabilization bills before them, which would temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund and avoid additional catastrophic cuts to VOCA funds available to victims services. That won't end the funding crisis, but it will put CACs on a secure path toward stable funding that meets the level of need in nearly 1,000 American communities.

**Please support child crime victims and their families. Stabilize VOCA funds for Children's Advocacy Centers and put our kids on solid footing. Thank you for your support for kids!**



[nationalchildrensalliance.org](https://nationalchildrensalliance.org)  
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*Help mitigate the impact of funding cuts and support the One Place Child Advocacy Center with a donation to the Every Child, One Hope, One Place Annual*

*Fund: <https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/donate-today/>*

# Make an Impact on the Future of Onslow County

We invite you to join a community of people who care about the children and families of Onslow County and want to help create a stronger, more resilient future for everyone who calls this community home.

Become a sponsor of Diamonds & Denim 2024 and make an impact on your community today, that will last a lifetime.

Click here to watch our "History of Diamonds & Denim" video



**Mark your calendar and reserve your sponsorship today!  
You don't want to miss it!**

Diamonds & Denim  
September 21, 2024  
6PM  
American Legion Building, Jacksonville, NC

[Click here to change the future of Onslow County.](#)

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## Lunch & Learn: The State of Child Care in NC



One Place hosted a Lunch & Learn earlier this month and invited Theresa Roedersheimer, newly-appointed Executive Director of the NC Early Childhood Foundation, to present updated information on child care in North Carolina to the local early education community.

Roedersheimer spoke about challenges with child care and potential fixes. Those include centers being too expensive, short-staffed, or having a lack of trust with parents.

"Some immediate things that we can address in the state of North Carolina is really thinking about funding for child care and how we can get, not just one time or funding for a month or two, but really think about sustainable living and really supporting our child care community and helping our children in the families that they support." Roedersheimer said.

If you are a parent/caregiver who has experienced challenges related to child care availability, or a business impacted by lack of child care access for your employees, we want to hear from you!

[Click here](#) to share your experience.



## Back to School-Body Safety

A new school year starts next week-whether you're sending your child off to their very first day of school, or your family has weathered many "first days," it's a time of excitement and uncertainty as you navigate a new year.

An important part of your back to school preparation should include a discussion with your child about body safety.

The Mama Bear Effect has age-appropriate resources available to help facilitate discussions with your child about body safety. [Click here](#) and navigate to the "Rock the Talk" menu tab.

Include your child's teacher in the discussion. Check out Darkness to Light's ["Back to School: Classroom Safety"](#) article for a list of great questions to ask.



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## North Carolina Proclaims September Smart Start Month!

Thank you to our local community partners, our state and community leaders, early childhood leaders, and the families we serve who are part of our Smart Start family. Through continual support and investments in Smart Start, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive!

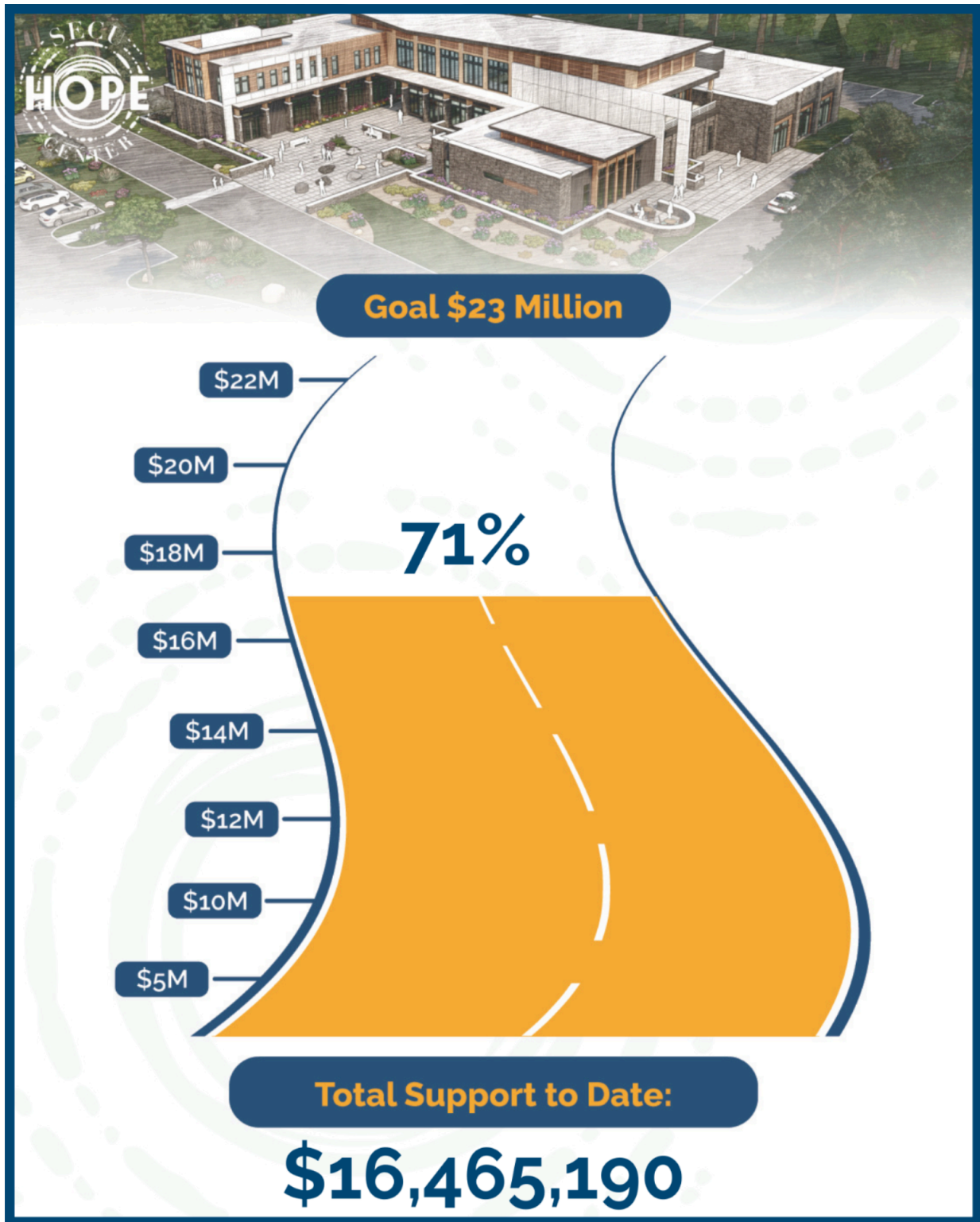
The Smart Start Network is comprised of the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and 75 local Smart Start Partnerships that work to shift mindsets and the public narrative about children birth-to-five and their families. The impact we have locally is happening statewide as we work to ensure each child in North Carolina can thrive!

As a partner of the Smart Start Network, we are committed to raising the quality of early childhood care and education, partnering with families to build on their strengths, and improving community health. We also work to create a stronger early childhood system where each community receives evidence-based and evidence-informed services that best meet its needs.

Follow us on social media throughout September for more information about the wonderful work of the Smart Start network and to learn how together we're changing the futures of communities across the state, one child at a time.

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## Our New Home



When our youngest population is safe, healthy, and living to their fullest potential-so is everyone who calls Onslow County home.

Construction continues on our permanent home, the SECU Hope Center, where we will expand services to the community and continue to work in partnership with local government, advocacy groups, businesses, and philanthropic organizations to strengthen children, connect families, and end child abuse.

We have secured 71% of the funding for our project and we need to close the gap. The impacts of programs and services provided by One Place have community-wide benefits and create a more resilient future for all.

[Click here](#) to learn more about SECU Hope Center and how you can get involved.

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## One Place in the News

- [One Place Holds Luncheon to Inform Educators on State of Child Care](#)
- [One Place Encourages Jacksonville to Speak on Lack of Child Care](#)
- [One Place Hosts NC Early Childhood Foundation Executive Director to Discuss State of Child Care](#)

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## Blogs

In case you missed the blogs we shared on social media this month, check them out:

- [Coping with Separation Anxiety: Tips for Parents](#)
- [Find the Best Back to School Routine for Your Child](#)
- [How Early Head Start Supports Healthy Children: Health Services Advisory Committee](#)
- [How Social-Emotional Skills Develop in High-Quality Preschool Programs](#)