

**Children’s Council of Watauga County, Inc.  
2025-2028 Smart Start Application Instructions**

Completed applications must be received at the Children’s Council of Watauga County, Inc. office by **4:30 p.m.** on the deadline date of **Friday, May 2, 2025**. Please email the completed packet to Elisha Childers at [elisha@thechildrenscouncil.org](mailto:elisha@thechildrenscouncil.org) or by mail/hand delivery to the Children’s Council 225 Birch Street, Suite 3 Boone, NC 28607. Fax transmissions will not be accepted.

Funding timeline is July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028.

**All funding is contingent on the annual approval of Smart Start funding by the North Carolina General Assembly and the North Carolina Partnership for Children.**

The Children’s Council of Watauga County, Inc.’s Board of Directors has worked through a strategic planning process which has provided focus for what they intend to fund, based on the funding we anticipate receiving.

You should be cautioned that the Smart Start funding projections are uncertain and there may be projects listed that may not be funded or may receive an allocation different than the current projections. While the Board may determine tentative allocations in late spring/early summer, final allocations will not be determined until the state budget is ratified and the Children’s Council of Watauga County, Inc. receives a final allocation from the North Carolina Partnership for Children.

If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please contact Elisha Childers, Executive Director 828-262-5424 x 206 or [elisha@thechildrenscouncil.org](mailto:elisha@thechildrenscouncil.org).

<b>FY 2025-2028 Bidding Application Timeline</b>	
March 2025	Programs & Services (P&S) Committee finalizes RFP timeline and approves RFP document.
	[week of 4/7/2025: begin advertising RFA/RFP; notice sent to RFA/RFP
May 2025	[5/2/2025]: Application/Proposal Deadline  [5/13/2025]: P&S Committee receives a copy of each proposal and meets to discuss the proposals, frame questions and schedule site visits for new prospective contractors. Respond by 1.25.2024. During month: conduct site visits
May 2025-June 2025	Conduct site visits if needed
May/June 2025	Notification of awards. Awards are contingent on Smart Start Board of Directors’ approval and when Smart Start funding is approved for the partnership for FY 25-26. The June Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2025.