

Onslow County Partnership for Children

301 Northwest Drive, Jacksonville, NC 28546 Phone: 910-938-0336 Fax: 910-938-0068

www.onslowkids.org

Glossary of Key Terms

Activity – Refers to a direct service or program funded by Smart Start partnerships, approved by the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and offered to children, families, child care providers and other recipients.

Actual Outcome – This term answers the question: what difference is this activity making in our community? It should be written for continuing activities only. (See below for the definition of “outcome.”)

Annual Plan – The Smart Start annual plan is used as a document for:

- *guiding* local partnerships in developing and implementing services that address the needs of children 0-5 in their local community.
- *accessing* state funding to support the various plans and services included in the annual plan; and
- *developing* technical assistance and support strategies for use by the NCPC with local partnerships.

The Smart Start annual plan is developed in collaboration with various segments of the local county or region.

Direct Service Provider (DSP) – The organization/agency that is providing the services for a Smart Start funded activity.

Evaluation – The process of planning for, collecting, analyzing and reporting the results of Smart Start funded activities.

Goal – The end towards which Smart Start funded activities are directed. Goals are ambitious statements of a desired end and measure progress towards achieving a local partnership’s vision. *The term goal is used interchangeably with the term “performance standard.”*

Identified Need – This term answers the question: where are you now? It should be stated in relation to the PBIS standard and should include data about where the county/partnership stands currently.

Influencing Factors – This term answers the question: what is happening in your community related to your mission that impacts where you are? It includes an analysis of community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Key resources to consider when defining influencing factors include: individuals (leaders), community/region, agency/organizational, cultural, state/federal and financial.

Mission – A statement of purpose or intent that defines a local partnership’s responsibilities in achieving its vision.

Outcome – An outcome is a specific, measurable result to be expected of a recipient of Smart Start funded activities. Outcomes answer the question “what has changed for recipients as a result of participating in an activity” and are directly related to recipient’s needs. Here, outcomes refer specifically to those results that occur at the activity level.

Output – Outputs are the “counts” or numbers served through an activity. Examples of outputs include: 50 people will be served; 180 resource guides will be distributed; 100 parents will be enrolled.

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Performance Based Incentive System (PBIS) Minimum Standard – This benchmark represents the minimum standard deemed by Smart Start to be appropriate for all children throughout the state, regardless of demographics, urban-rural characteristics or economic status.

PBIS High Performing Standard – This benchmark represents the standard at which Smart Start recognizes local partnership progress towards a specific program performance standard with incentives.

Planned Budget – This figure represents a projected estimate of the cost of program service delivery for new and continuing activities identified in the Chart of Identified Needs and Program Service Delivery System.

Planning Budget – This budget represents the partnership's best estimate of the cost of program service delivery as outlined in the full activity description outline for a one-year period.

Projected Activity Outcome – This term answers the question: where will you be in one year? It should be written for new and continuing activities. (See above for the definition of "outcome.")

Strategy – A careful plan, method or sequence of steps used to implement an activity or a plan. This term answers the question: what method(s) are you using to turn strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats into action as prioritized by your local board.

Vision – The futuristic picture or ideal state of a community as defined by local partnerships during their strategic planning process.

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