



For Immediate Release
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Press Release

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WAKE COUNTY SMARTSTART ANNOUNCES FUNDING PARTNERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 *Wake County SmartStart funds vital services for young children, their families*

To continue working to ensure that children ages birth to 5, especially those who need help most, are healthy and ready for success in school and life, Wake County SmartStart announced Wednesday, that its Board of Directors allocated \$16.8 million to 16 community health, education and human services agencies and other nonprofits to serve children across the county.

Over the last 10 years, Wake County SmartStart has invested more than \$69 million in funding to help young children, families and child care providers. This year, 30 agencies began serving children under the new funding cycle which began July 1, 2005. The NC State Legislature directed \$16.8 million in service dollars to Wake County SmartStart through an allocation made to by the North Carolina Partnership for Children.

Wake County SmartStart celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2005-2006 and has worked with agency partners to create systemic change in early care and education, family support services and securing early intervention services for children. Last fiscal year, Wake County SmartStart served nearly 17,000 Wake County children, 6,000 of those children through specialized services, such as developmental screenings, consultations and home visiting support programs.

Wake County SmartStart Board members and volunteers, comprised of community members, civic leaders, early childhood professionals, and staff design activities based on local needs and gaps in services to young children. Wake County SmartStart seeks bids on these services. The Allocations Committee comprised of Board members and community volunteers review all applications and make funding recommendations to the Board of Directors. Once in contract, these programs are monitored and outcomes are measured to track results.

Collectively, the following programs are expected to serve nearly 17,000 local children ages 0 to 5:

Child Care Services Association

- Professional Development Planning for Child Care Providers
- Education Based Compensation for Child Care Providers (WAGES)
- Substitute Support in Child Care Settings

Community Partnerships

- Resource Support Services in Child Care Centers and Family Care Homes (Resource Inclusion Project)

Catholic Social Ministries

- Family Outreach and Resource Support

El Pueblo

- Family Literacy Program (Leamos Juntos)

Family Support Network

- Parental Support for Families of Children with Special Needs

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Wake County

- Intensive Home Visiting and Support Services for Adolescent Parents (Moms on the Move or Alcanzando la Meta)

Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood

- Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children (Secure Path)

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Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas

- Intensive Home Visiting and Support Services for High Needs Communities

Learning Together

- Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children (Best Buddiez)

Motheread

- Family Literacy

Project Enlightenment

- Consultation and Support for Children with Special Needs
- Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Model
- Speech/Language and Hearing Screening Program
- Supporting Children's Transition to Kindergarten

SAFEChild

- Intensive Home Visiting and Support Services for First-time Mothers
- (Welcome Baby, Birth and Beginning Years , Crianza Con Carino

The Salvation Army

- Family Outreach and Resource Services

Wake County Human Services

- Child Care Financial Assistance for Families (Subsidy)
- Community Action Plan for Young Hispanic/Latino Children
- Dental Health Program (Healthy Smiles)
- Health, Safety and Nutrition Technical Assistance in Child Care Settings
- Intensive Home Visiting and Support Services in High Needs Communities
- Pediatric Surveillance Mentoring Program

Wake County SmartStart

- Program Coordination/Community and Partner Capacity Building Project
- Program Improvement and Evaluation
- Quality Enhancement/Maintenance and Grants in Child Care Centers
- More at Four

Wake Med

- Hospital to Home Early Intervention Program

As a local partner of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, **Wake County SmartStart** works with national, state and local agencies, as well as other nonprofits that serve Wake County children, ages birth to 5, and their families through vital programs. Wake County SmartStart works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care settings, provide preventive health services and support families in a variety of ways. The organization also promotes, supports, and advocates for the needs of young children living in Wake County. To obtain more information on Wake County SmartStart's allocation of state funds and its activities with local partner agencies, visit www.wakesmartstart.org.

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