

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Form 990

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue ServiceUnder section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)
Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2024
Open to Public
Inspection

A For the 2024 calendar year, or tax year beginning JUL 1, 2024 and ending JUN 30, 2025

B Check if applicable:	C Name of organization WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.		D Employer identification number 56-1949415
<input type="checkbox"/> Address change	Doing business as		E Telephone number 919-851-9550
<input type="checkbox"/> Name change	Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) 4901 WATERS EDGE DRIVE	Room/suite 101	G Gross receipts \$ 27,914,896.
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial return	City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code RALEIGH, NC 27606		H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Final return/terminated	F Name and address of principal officer: GAYLE E. HEADEN SAME AS C ABOVE		H(b) Are all subordinates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended return	I Tax-exempt status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)() (insert no.) <input type="checkbox"/> 4947(a)(1) or <input type="checkbox"/> 527		If "No," attach a list. See instructions
<input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	J Website: WWW.WAKESMARTSTART.ORG		K Form of organization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input type="checkbox"/> Association <input type="checkbox"/> Other
			L Year of formation: 1994 M State of legal domicile: NC

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER.	
	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.	
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3 17
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4 16
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2024 (Part V, line 2a)	5 49
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6 150
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a 0.
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b 0.	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	Prior Year 24,873,868. Current Year 27,699,186.
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0. 0.
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	195,894. 183,388.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	32,565. 32,322.
	12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	25,102,327. 27,914,896.
	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)	19,563,939. 21,763,190.
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0. 0.
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	3,779,166. 3,853,338.
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0. 0.
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)	93,861.
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	1,685,522. 1,632,743.
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	25,028,627. 27,249,271.	
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	73,700. 665,625.	
Expenses	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	3,982,549. 4,446,723.
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	401,363. 199,912.
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	3,581,186. 4,246,811.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here	Signature of officer <i>Matthew Glova</i>	Date <i>10/13/25</i>
	MATTHEW GLOVA, TREASURER	
	Type or print name and title	
Paid	Preparer's name ELIZABETH MAUCH	Preparer's signature <i>Elizabeth Mauch</i> Date <i>10/13/2025</i> Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/> PTIN P01988953
Preparer	Firm's name BLACKMAN & SLOOP ADVISORS, INC.	Firm's EIN 56-1304727
Use Only	Firm's address 1414 RALEIGH ROAD, SUITE 300 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27517	Phone no. (919) 942-8700

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

432001 12-10-24

X Yes No

Form 990 (2024)

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III **X**1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

WAKE COUNTY SMART START INVESTS IN YOUNG CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES, AND A CONNECTED EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS AND PREPARES THEM FOR SCHOOL AND LIFE AHEAD.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes **X** No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes **X** No
If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 15,299,359. including grants of \$ 14,454,137.) (Revenue \$)
NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

THE NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES TO ENHANCE SCHOOL READINESS FOR ELIGIBLE FOUR-YEAR-OLDS. CHILDREN IN PRE-K ATTEND A FULL SCHOOL DAY IN A SCHOOL-YEAR PROGRAM. CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ARE SERVED IN LICENSED CLASSROOMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE CHILD CARE FACILITIES, OR HEAD START PROGRAMS. FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR, 1,705 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. A STATE GRANT AND A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT SUPPORTED THE PROGRAM.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 4,208,572. including grants of \$ 3,201,085.) (Revenue \$)
FAMILY SUPPORT/HEALTH AND SAFETY

WAKE COUNTY SMART START FUNDS FAMILY SUPPORT, AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN WAKE COUNTY. FAMILY SUPPORT PROVIDES PARENTING SKILLS TRAINING, ONGOING PARENT EDUCATION, FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVES, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND FAMILY NAVIGATION. HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVIDES TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING, NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, AND REFERRALS TO ADDRESS HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES. APPROXIMATELY 890 CHILDREN DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM AT LEAST ONE WAKE COUNTY SMART START FAMILY SUPPORT OR HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITY. PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED BY STATE AND PRIVATE GRANTS.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 4,541,902. including grants of \$ 3,839,252.) (Revenue \$)
WAKE THREESCHOOL

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES EARLY EDUCATION TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN A PLAY-BASED, DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT, LIKE THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NC PRE-K PROGRAM. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHEN THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR LEARNING EARLY, THEY LEARN BETTER, GAIN STRONGER SKILLS, AND ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN. THIS PROGRAM LEVERAGES THE RAPID BRAIN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT HAPPENS AT AGE THREE. THIS "FRAMEWORK" IS WHAT ALL FUTURE LEARNING IS BUILT UPON. CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ARE SERVED IN LICENSED PRIVATE CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND HEAD START PROGRAMS. FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR, 333 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. THE

4d Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.)

(Expenses \$ 1,509,668. including grants of \$ 268,716.) (Revenue \$ 2,375.)

4e Total program service expenses 25,559,501.

Form 990 (2024)

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	1 X	
2	Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? See instructions	2 X	
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>	3 X	
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	4 X	
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Rev. Proc. 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>	5 X	
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>	6 X	
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>	7 X	
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>	8 X	
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>	9 X	
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	10 X	
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X, as applicable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i> b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i> c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i> d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i> e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i> 	11a X 11b X 11c X 11d X 11e X 11f X	
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	12a X	
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	12b X	
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	13 X	
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>	14a X 14b X	
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>	15 X	
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>	16 X	
17	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I. See instructions</i>	17 X	
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	18 X	
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>	19 X	
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>	20a X	
b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	20b X	
21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	21 X	

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

		Yes	No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III	22	X
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? If "Yes," complete Schedule J	23	X
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a	24a	X
24b	.....	24b	
24c	.....	24c	
24d	.....	24d	
25a	Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	25a	X
25b	.....	25b	X
26	Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5 or 22, for receivables from or payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II	26	X
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity (including an employee thereof) or family member of any of these persons? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III	27	X
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (See the Schedule L, Part IV, instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions):		
28a	.....	28a	X
28b	.....	28b	X
28c	.....	28c	X
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in noncash contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	29	X
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? If "Yes," complete Schedule M	30	X
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I	31	X
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II	32	X
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I	33	X
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1	34	X
35a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a	X
35b	.....	35b	
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2	36	X
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI	37	X
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations on Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? Note: All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	X

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax ComplianceCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable	1a	53
1b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included on line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable	1b	0
1c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	X

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

	Yes	No
2a Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return	2a	49
b If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	2b	X
3a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	X
b If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation on Schedule O	3b	
4a At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a	X
b If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country _____ See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).	4b	
5a Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	X
b Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	X
c If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c	
6a Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a	X
b If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
7 Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).	7a	X
a Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7b	
b If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7c	X
c Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7d	
d If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7e	X
e Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7f	X
f Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7g	
g If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7h	
h If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	8	
8 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds. Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	9a	
9 Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.	9b	
10 Section 501(c) organizations. Enter:	10a	
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10b	
b Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	11a	
11 Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter:	11b	
a Gross income from members or shareholders	12a	
b Gross income from other sources. (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	12b	
12a Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	13a	
b If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year	13b	
13 Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.	13c	
a Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state?	14a	X
Note: See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	14b	
b Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans	15	X
c Enter the amount of reserves on hand	16	X
14a Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	17	
b If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation on Schedule O		
15 Is the organization subject to the section 4960 tax on payment(s) of more than \$1,000,000 in remuneration or excess parachute payment(s) during the year?		
If "Yes," see the instructions and file Form 4720, Schedule N.		
16 Is the organization an educational institution subject to the section 4968 excise tax on net investment income?		
If "Yes," complete Form 4720, Schedule O.		
17 Section 501(c)(21) organizations. Did the trust, or any disqualified or other person engage in any activities that would result in the imposition of an excise tax under section 4951, 4952 or 4953?		
If "Yes," complete Form 6069.		

Part VI | Governance, Management, and Disclosure. For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes on Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI X

Section A. Governing Body and Management

1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year 17
 If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain on Schedule O.

1b Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent 16

2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee? 2 X

3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? 3 X

4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed? 4 X

5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? 5 X

6 Did the organization have members or stockholders? 6 X

7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body? 7a X

b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body? 8b X

8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:
 a The governing body? 8a X
 b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body? 8b X

9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O 9 X

Section B. Policies

(This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? 10a X
 b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes? 10b

11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? 11a X
 b Describe on Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990. 12a X

12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13 12b X
 b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? 12c X
 c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe on Schedule O how this was done 13 X

13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? 14 X

14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? 15 X

15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?
 a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official 15a X
 b Other officers or key employees of the organization 15b X
 If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process on Schedule O. See instructions.

16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year? 16a X
 b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements? 16b X

Section C. Disclosure

17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed NC
 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A, if applicable), 990, and 990-T (section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.

Own website Another's website Upon request Other (explain on Schedule O)

19 Describe on Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records

GAYLE E. HEADEN - 919-851-9550
4901 WATERS EDGE DRIVE, 101, RALEIGH, NC 27606

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

 Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII
Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation.

Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See the instructions for definition of "key employee."

who received reportable compensation (box 5 of Form W-2, box 6 of Form 1099-MISC, and/or box 1 of Form 1099-NEC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

See the instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

 Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)					(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/ 1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/ 1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee			
(1) GAYLE HEADEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	40.00	X	X				155,915.	0.	15,445.
(2) GARY CARR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	40.00	X	X				151,239.	0.	16,842.
(3) CAROL C ORJI DIRECTOR OF ECI	40.00			X			115,142.	0.	14,973.
(4) KATHERINE WILLIAMS CHAIR	1.00	X	X				0.	0.	0.
(5) NIKIA COATES VICE CHAIR	1.00	X	X				0.	0.	0.
(6) MATTHEW ELLINWOOD SECRETARY	1.00	X	X				0.	0.	0.
(7) MATTHEW GLOVA TREASURER	1.00			X	X		0.	0.	0.
(8) ANDRE ANTHONY DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(9) VERONICA CREECH DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(10) HEATHER DRENNAN DIRECTOR THR FEB 2025	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(11) SUSAN EVANS DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(12) ARIEL FORD DIRECTOR FR OCT 2024	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(13) SHERRY HEUSER DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(14) MICKEY HOLT DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(15) NIKKI LEONARD DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(16) RONETTA PEARSALL DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.
(17) ANTONIA PEDROZA DIRECTOR	1.00		X				0.	0.	0.

Part VII **Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)**

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization

3 Did the organization list any **former** officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual

4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization

5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.	(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
	NONE		
2	Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization	0	

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1 a Federated campaigns	1a			
	b Membership dues	1b			
	c Fundraising events	1c			
	d Related organizations	1d			
	e Government grants (contributions)	1e 27,052,919.			
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f 646,267.			
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g \$			
	h Total. Add lines 1a-1f	27,699,186.			
Program Service Revenue	2 a	Business Code			
	b				
	c				
	d				
	e				
	f All other program service revenue				
	g Total. Add lines 2a-2f				
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)	183,388.			183,388.
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds				
	5 Royalties				
	6 a Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal		
		6a			
	b Less: rental expenses	6b			
	c Rental income or (loss)	6c			
	d Net rental income or (loss)				
	7 a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other		
		7a			
	b Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	7b			
	c Gain or (loss)	7c			
	d Net gain or (loss)				
	8 a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	8a			
	b Less: direct expenses	8b			
	c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events				
	9 a Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	9a			
	b Less: direct expenses	9b			
	c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities				
	10 a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	10a			
	b Less: cost of goods sold	10b			
	c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory				
Miscellaneous Revenue	11 a SALES TAX REFUNDS	Business Code			
		900099	29,900.		29,900.
	b PARTICIPANT FEES	611710	2,375.	2,375.	
	c OTHER INCOME	900099	47.		47.
	d All other revenue				
	e Total. Add lines 11a-11d		32,322.		
	12 Total revenue. See instructions	27,914,896.	2,375.	0.	213,335.

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	21,763,190.	21,763,190.		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	367,219.	264,244.	96,698.	6,277.
6 Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	2,551,783.	1,819,925.	684,585.	47,273.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	339,805.	261,084.	78,721.	
9 Other employee benefits	370,744.	296,488.	72,258.	1,998.
10 Payroll taxes	223,787.	160,086.	59,419.	4,282.
11 Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a Management				
b Legal	4,141.		4,141.	
c Accounting	11,136.		11,136.	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)	726,580.	453,215.	255,372.	17,993.
12 Advertising and promotion	11,143.	7,099.	3,751.	293.
13 Office expenses	74,457.	54,163.	19,631.	663.
14 Information technology	253,300.	186,640.	63,698.	2,962.
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	237,870.	163,365.	62,927.	11,578.
17 Travel	44,168.	37,485.	6,683.	
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	83,336.	71,827.	11,409.	100.
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
23 Insurance	27,637.	116.	27,521.	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a OTHER REFUND	104,429.		104,429.	
b SALES TAX EXPENSE	21,552.		21,552.	
c DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	13,844.	5,193.	8,651.	
d OUTREACH AND EDUCATION	9,998.	9,998.		
e All other expenses	9,152.	5,383.	3,327.	442.
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	27,249,271.	25,559,501.	1,595,909.	93,861.
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	238,391.	1 464,955.
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	3,680,539.	2 3,963,059.
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3
	4 Accounts receivable, net	63,619.	4 18,709.
	5 Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a	
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b	10c
	11 Investments - publicly traded securities		11
	12 Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12
	13 Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13
	14 Intangible assets		14
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		15
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33)	3,982,549.	16 4,446,723.	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,336.	17 1,610.
	18 Grants payable	400,027.	18 198,302.
	19 Deferred revenue		19
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21
	22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		22
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D		25
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	401,363.	26 199,912.
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.		
	27 Net assets without donor restrictions	2,174,146.	27 2,349,095.
	28 Net assets with donor restrictions	1,407,040.	28 1,897,716.
	Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
	and complete lines 29 through 33.		
	29 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		29
	30 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		30
	31 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		31
	32 Total net assets or fund balances	3,581,186.	32 4,246,811.
33 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	3,982,549.	33 4,446,723.	

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Part XI Reconciliation of Net AssetsCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	27,914,896.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	27,249,271.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	665,625.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	3,581,186.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	10	4,246,811.

Part XII Financial Statements and ReportingCheck if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
	If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?	2a	X
	If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	2b	X
	If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		
c	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?	2c	X
	If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain on Schedule O.		
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?	3a	X
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits	3b	X

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	27699186.	115111924
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	27699186.	115111924
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						115111924

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	27699186.	115111924
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	3,575.	3,767.	78,125.	195,895.	183,388.	464,750.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)	16,522.	27,126.	25,161.	32,565.	29,947.	131,321.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						115707995
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	11,375.
13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2024 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f))	14	99.48	%
15 Public support percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	99.61	%
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2024. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
b 33 1/3% support test - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2024. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here . Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here . Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
<input type="checkbox"/>			
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions			
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Schedule A (Form 990) 2024

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support. (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) 2024	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)						
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						
14 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here <input type="checkbox"/>						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2024 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2024 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2023 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2024. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

- 1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? If "No," describe in **Part VI** how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain. Yes No
- 2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).
- 3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.
 - b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? If "Yes," describe in **Part VI** when and how the organization made the determination.
 - c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.
- 4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? If "Yes," and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.
 - b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? If "Yes," describe in **Part VI** how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.
 - c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? If "Yes," explain in **Part VI** what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.
- 5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in **Part VI**, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).
 - b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?
 - c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?
- 6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? If "Yes," complete **Part I of Schedule L (Form 990)**.
- 8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? If "Yes," complete **Part I of Schedule L (Form 990)**.
- 9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
 - b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
 - c Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? If "Yes," provide detail in **Part VI**.
- 10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? If "Yes," answer line 10b below.
 - b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? (Use **Schedule C, Form 4720**, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

- A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described on lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?
- A family member of a person described on line 11a above?
- A 35% controlled entity of a person described on line 11a or 11b above? If "Yes" to line 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI.

	Yes	No
11a		
11b		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

1 Did the governing body, members of the governing body, officers acting in their official capacity, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees at all times during the tax year? If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove officers, directors, or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.

2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.

	Yes	No
1		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).

	Yes	No
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?

2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).

3 By reason of the relationship described on line 2, above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.

	Yes	No
1		
2		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).

- The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.
- The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.
- The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a governmental entity (see instructions).

2 Activities Test. Answer lines 2a and 2b below.

a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.

b Did the activities described on line 2a, above, constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.

3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer lines 3a and 3b below.

- Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? If "Yes" or "No," provide details in Part VI.
- Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.

	Yes	No
2a		
2b		
3a		
3b		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

1 Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (*explain in Part VI*). **See instructions.**
 All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3.	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of <u>property</u> held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	
Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors <i>(explain in detail in Part VI):</i>		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by 0.035.	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	
Section C - Distributable Amount		Current Year	
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, column A)	1	
2	Enter 0.85 of line 1.	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to <u>emergency temporary reduction</u> (see instructions).	6	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - <i>provide details in Part VI</i>)	5
6	Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions.	6
7	Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.	7
8	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (<i>provide details in Part VI</i>). See instructions.	8
9	Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6	9
10	Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount	10
Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)		(iii) Distributable Amount for 2024
		(i) Excess Distributions
		(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2024
1	Distributable amount for 2024 from Section C, line 6	
2	Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2024 (reasonable cause required - <i>explain in Part VI</i>). See instructions.	
3	Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2024	
a	From 2019	
b	From 2020	
c	From 2021	
d	From 2022	
e	From 2023	
f	Total of lines 3a through 3e	
g	Applied to under distributions of prior years	
h	Applied to 2024 distributable amount	
i	Carryover from 2019 not applied (see instructions)	
j	Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.	
4	Distributions for 2024 from Section D, line 7: \$	
a	Applied to underdistributions of prior years	
b	Applied to 2024 distributable amount	
c	Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.	
5	Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2024, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, <i>explain in Part VI</i> . See instructions.	
6	Remaining underdistributions for 2024. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, <i>explain in Part VI</i> . See instructions.	
7	Excess distributions carryover to 2025. Add lines 3 and 4c.	
8	Breakdown of line 7:	
a	Excess from 2020	
b	Excess from 2021	
c	Excess from 2022	
d	Excess from 2023	
e	Excess from 2024	

Schedule A (Form 990) 2024

Part VI

Supplemental Information.

Supplemental Information: Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE A PART II LINE 10 EXPLANATION FOR OTHER INCOME:

SALES TAX REFUND

2020 AMOUNT: \$ 16,522.

2021 AMOUNT: \$ 27,126.

2022 AMOUNT: \$ 25,161.

2023 AMOUNT: \$ 32,565.

2024 AMOUNT: \$ 29,900.

OTHER INCOME

2024 AMOUNT: \$ 47.

** PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COPY **

**Schedule B
(Form 990)**

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Schedule of Contributors

OMB No. 1545-0047

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

501(c)(3) (enter number) organization

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

527 political organization

Form 990-PF

501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000; or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h; or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), II, and III.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year \$ _____

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions for Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.

Schedule B (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Name of organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

Part I **Contributors** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1		\$ 8,907,125.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
2		\$ 9,886,025.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
3		\$ 7,751,563.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
		\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
		\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
		\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash
			(Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization

Employer identification number

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

56-1949415

Part II Noncash Property (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
		\$ _____	_____

Name of organization

Employer identification number

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

56-1949415

Part III Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of **\$1,000 or less** for the year. (Enter this info. once.) \$ _____
Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

A Check if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).

B Check if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals
1a Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grassroots lobbying)			
b Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)		5,000.	
c Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)		5,000.	
d Other exempt purpose expenditures		25,554,501.	
e Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)		25,559,501.	
f Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.		1,000,000.	
IF the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b), is:		THEN the lobbying nontaxable amount is:	
not over \$500,000		20% of the amount on line 1e.	
over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000		\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	
over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000		\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	
over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000		\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	
over \$17,000,000		\$1,000,000.	
g Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)		250,000.	
h Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-		0.	
i Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-		0.	
j If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below.

See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2021	(b) 2022	(c) 2023	(d) 2024	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	4,000,000.
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					6,000,000.
c Total lobbying expenditures	2,500.	2,500.	5,000.	5,000.	15,000.
d Grassroots nontaxable amount	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	1,000,000.
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					1,500,000.
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

For each "Yes" response on lines 1a through 1i below, provide in Part IV a detailed description of the lobbying activity.	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state, or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of:			
a Volunteers?			
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines 1c through 1i)?			
c Media advertisements?			
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?			
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?			
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?			
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?			
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any similar means?			
i Other activities?			
j Total. Add lines 1c through 1i			
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to not be described in section 501(c)(3)?			
b If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes," enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3 Did the organization agree to carry over lobbying and political campaign activity expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No;" OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

1 Dues, assessments, and similar amounts from members	1	
2 Section 162(e) nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures (do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid):		
a Current year	2a	
b Carryover from last year	2b	
c Total	2c	
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3	
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditures next year?	4	
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures. See instructions	5	

Part IV Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Supplemental Financial Statements

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990,
 Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.
 Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public
 Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
 56-1949415

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of land for public use (for example, recreation or education)	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a historically important land area
	<input type="checkbox"/> Protection of natural habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a certified historic structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of open space	
2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.		
a Total number of conservation easements		
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements		
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included on line 2a		
d Number of conservation easements included on line 2c acquired after July 25, 2006, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register		
3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year		
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located		
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year		
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year		
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2d above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.		

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide in Part XIII the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.	
b If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items.	
(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	\$
(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X	\$
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under FASB ASC 958 relating to these items:	
a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1	\$
b Assets included in Form 990, Part X	\$

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

LHA 432051 01-02-25

Schedule D (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that make significant use of its collection items (check all that apply).

a <input type="checkbox"/> Public exhibition	d <input type="checkbox"/> Loan or exchange program
b <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarly research	e <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
c <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation for future generations	

4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.

5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian, or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

a Board designated or quasi-endowment _____ %

b Permanent endowment _____ %

c Term endowment _____ %

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 10c, column (B)) 0 .

Part VII Investments - Other Securities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		

Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 12, col. (B))

Part VIII Investments - Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		

Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 13, col. (B))

Part IX Other Assets

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	

Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 15, col. (B))

Part X Other Liabilities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	

Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 25, col. (B))

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FASB ASC 740. Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ...

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	27,914,896.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	0.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	27,914,896.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0.
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5	27,914,896.

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	27,249,271.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	0.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	27,249,271.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0.
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	27,249,271.

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

PART X, LINE 2:

WAKE COUNTY SMART START IS EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF INCOME TAXES UNDER THE PROVISION OF SECTION 501(C)3 OF THE IRC EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT OF TAXES ON ANY UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME. FASB ASC 740 PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR HOW UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, MEASURED, PRESENTED AND DISCLOSED IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. FASB ASC 740 REQUIRES THE EVALUATION OF TAX POSITIONS TAKEN OR EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE TAX POSITIONS ARE "MORE-LIKELY-THAN-NOT" TO BE SUSTAINED BY THE APPLICABLE TAX AUTHORITY. WAKE COUNTY SMART START DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY UNRECOGNIZED TAX BENEFITS OR COSTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2025.

FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 3B AND SCHEDULE D PART XI AND XII
THE SINGLE AUDIT HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED AT THE TIME THE 990 WAS FINALIZED.

Part XIII Supplemental Information (continued)

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
 Governments, and Individuals in the United States**
 Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? Yes No
- 2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER, INC. - 201 CLARENDON CRESCENT - RALEIGH, NC 27610	20-1187875		588,438.	16,278.	COST		NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
ABC LAND, INC. II 55 LILES DEAN ROAD WENDELL, NC 27591	56-1239648		728,374.	0.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
ACADEMICALLY BASED CHILD 916-107 ROCK QUARRY ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-2056643		797,586.	0.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
BAMBINO'S PLAY SCHOOL 3404 DAVIS DR. CARY, NC 27519	81-4366903		357,000.	7,737.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
BOOK HARVEST 2501 UNIVERSITY DR. DURHAM, NC 27707	45-2610533	501(c)3	110,296.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS OF CARY, INC. 123 BRIGHT BEGINNINGS WAY CARY, NC 27519	56-2134126		1,222,922.	648.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table

17.
 25.

Schedule I (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

SEE PART IV FOR COLUMN (G) DESCRIPTIONS

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II)						
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, INC. - 715 NAZARETH STREET - RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-0529943	501(c)3	174,439.	0.		FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
CHILD CARE NETWORK, INC. 6053 VETERANS PARKWAY BLDG 300 COLUMBUS, GA 31909	63-0986576		3,082,694.	0.		NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
CREATIVE KIDS ACADEMY 8408 STRICKLAND RD. RALEIGH, NC 27615	55-0862246		0.	13,276. COST	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT; OUTDOOR LEARNING	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
CREATIVE LEARNING ENTERPRISE 4309 TEN TEN ROAD APEX, NC 27539	46-5078995		336,144.	0.		
CREATIVE SCHOOLS, INC. 4915 WATERS EDGE DR. RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-1469260		1,303,892.	1,732. COST	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
DANIEL CENTER FOR MATH AND SCIENCE, INC. - 735 ROCK QUARRY RD. - RALEIGH, NC 27610	27-1597059		178,500.	0.		WAKE THREESCHOOL
DHIC 113 S. WILMINGTON ST. RALEIGH, NC 27601	56-1085131	501(c)3	8,920.	0.		KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT
EARLY PRESCHOOL & LEARNING CENTER LLC - 2614 FAIRWAY DRIVE - RALEIGH, NC 27603	56-2222511		559,640.	0.		NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
EARLY YEARS, INC. PO BOX 901 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514	56-1514058	501(c)3	156,863.	0.		FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER - SOUTH ATLANTIC - 3825 BARRETT DR., STE 104 - RALEIGH, NC 27609	20-1257901	501(c)3	400,553.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
FIESTA CRISTIANA 100 S. HUGHES ST. APEX, NC 27502	86-3749901	501(c)3	106,529.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
FRANKIE LEMMON SCHOOL & DEVELOPMENT CENTER - 3311 CARL SANDBURG CT. - RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-0931467	501(c)3	213,230.	0.			NC PREK, WAKE THREE SCHOOL
KIDS FIRST ACADEMY, INC. 3308 POOLE RD. RALEIGH, NC 27610	27-1294274		759,528.	0.			NC PREK, WAKE THREE SCHOOL
KINDERCARE LEARNING CENTER 650 NE HOLLADAY ST., SUITE 1400 PORTLAND, OR 97232	47-4478313		442,270.	2,115. COST			EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
LA PETITE ACADEMY, INC. 21333 HAGGERTY RD. NOVI, MI 48375	43-1243221		153,640.	14,043. COST			EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
LITTLE ANGELS PREPARATORY 724 S. MAIN ST. FUQUAY-VARINA, NC 27526	45-1475012		0.	20,140. COST			EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
LITTLE BELIEVERS ACADEMY II 309 HOLMAN ST. GARNER, NC 27529	47-1308220		268,108.	1,520. COST			EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
LITTLE DESTINY LITERACY & DISCOVERY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER - 3329 FORESTVILLE RD. - RALEIGH, NC 27616-8700	46-3319443		205,800.	0.			NC PREK

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET CHILD CARE CENTER, INC. - 2906 BRENTWOOD RD. - RALEIGH, NC 27604	20-8612696		522,868.	2,641.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
LUCY DANIELS CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD - 9003 WESTON PARKWAY - CARY, NC 27513	58-1863104	501(c)3	630,699.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
METHOD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER 900 TRAILWOOD DRIVE RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-0939512	501(c)3	442,242.	3,858.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
PRESTON CHILDREN'S ACADEMY 551 JAMES JACKSON AVENUE CARY, NC 27513	20-3690113		242,280.	0.			NC PREK
PRIMARY BEGINNINGS CHILD DEVELOPMENT - 2100 NORTH HILLS DRIVE - RALEIGH, NC 27612	56-2133291		1,066,440.	1,732.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
RISING STARS JRIVERSITY 1900 EDWIN DR. RALEIGH, NC 27610	26-1694863		0.	5,218.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
SAFECHILD, INC. 864 W. MORGAN STREET RALEIGH, NC 27603	56-1817816	501(c)3	119,360.	0.			QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
SHAW UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - 3117 E. LENOIR STREET - RALEIGH, NC 27601	56-0530235	501(c)3	235,703.	2,470.	COST		FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
SMART START ADVOCATES PO BOX 10714 RALEIGH, NC 27605	27-4873512	501(c)3	5,000.	0.			NC PREK, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
							DONATION FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

Schedule I (Form 990)

56-1949415 Page 1

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
STEP UP MINISTRY 1701 OBERLIN RD. RALEIGH, NC 27608	56-1655255	501(C)3	98,900.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
TELAMON CORPORATION 5560 MUNFORD ROAD, SUITE 201 RALEIGH, NC 27612	56-1022483	501(C)3	680,820.	0.			NC PREK, WAKE THREE SCHOOL
TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL 7209 BOYD CT. RALEIGH, NC 27616	80-0531097		0.	9,824.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
THE HAPPY FACE PRESCHOOL 5010 FORT SUMTER ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27606			880,446.	2,344.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
TRIANGLE ACADEMY PRESCHOOL 200 DANCERS POINTE LANE CARY, NC 27518	85-2884229		280,500.	4,590.	COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT
TRIANGLE AREA PARENTING SUPPORT PO BOX 1454 APEX, NC 27502	81-3973425	501(C)3	111,291.	0.			WAKE THREE SCHOOL
WAKE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PO BOX 46833 RALEIGH, NC 27620	56-6000347	GOVT	665,510.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 3600 WAKE FOREST ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27609	56-1137759	GOVT	2,684,556.	0.			NC PREK/ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
WANDA'S LITTLE HANDS EDUCATIONAL CENTER - 3400 POOLE ROAD - RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-1999520		661,730.	1,996.	COST		NC PREK, WAKE THREE SCHOOL

Part III Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
VARIOUS CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS	167,317.	0.				VARIOUS PROGRAMS	

Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22. Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals

Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Provide the information required in Part I, line 2; Part III, column (b); and any other additional information.

PART T TITNE 2:

ALL FUNDED ACTIVITIES ARE MONITORED TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS WHICH INCLUDE PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS. PROGRAM SITES ARE VISITED TO DOCUMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE, DELIVERY OF SERVICE, OUTPUTS, AND OUTCOMES. TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO ACHIEVE GOALS.

PART II, LINE 1, COLUMN (G):
NAME OF ORGANIZATION OR GOVERNMENT: CREATIVE KIDZ ACADEMY
(G) DESCRIPTION OF NON-CASH ASSISTANCE: EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT; OUTDOOR
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
Attach to Form 990.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.

<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (such as maid, chauffeur, chef)

Yes

No

b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

1b

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a?

2

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.

<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study
<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee

4a

X

4b

X

4c

X

4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:

a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?

b Participate in or receive payment from a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?

c Participate in or receive payment from an equity-based compensation arrangement?

If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.

5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

5a

X

5b

X

a The organization?

b Any related organization?

If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

6a

X

6b

X

a The organization?

b Any related organization?

If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

7

X

8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8

X

9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?

9

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part III Supplemental Information

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

SCHEDULE L

(Form 990)

(Rev. December 2024)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**Transactions With Interested Persons**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c; or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415**Part I Excess Benefit Transactions** (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and section 501(c)(29) organizations only)

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b; or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1 (a)	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
			Yes	No
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 \$

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization \$

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26; or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?	(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
						To	From	Yes	No	Yes	No
(1)											
(2)											
(3)											
(4)											
(5)											
(6)											
(7)											
(8)											
(9)											
(10)											

Total \$

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
(7)				
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule L (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22a, 22b, or 22c.				
(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?
				Yes No
(1) A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT	FORMER BOARD MEMBER	504,716.	KIM SHAW, F	X
(2) LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET CHILDREN'S	BOARD MEMBER	525,509.	RONETTA PEA	X
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
(7)				
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L. See instructions.

SCH L, PART IV, BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING INTERESTED PERSONS:

(A) NAME OF PERSON: A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER

(B) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERESTED PERSON AND ORGANIZATION:

**(D) REELECTIONIST DE
FORMER BOARD MEMBER**

(C) AMOUNT OF TRANSACTION \$ 504,716.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION: KIM SHAW, FORMER BOARD MEMBER, OWNS A
SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER WHICH CONTRACTS WITH WAKE COUNTY SMART
START AS A NC PREK AND WAKE THREESCHOOL PROVIDER.

(E) SHARING OF ORGANIZATION REVENUES? = NO

(A) NAME OF INTERESTED PERSON:

LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET CHILD CARE CENTER, INC.

(B) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERESTED PERSON AND ORGANIZATION:

(B) RELENTION
BOARD MEMBER

(C) AMOUNT OF TRANSACTION \$ 525,509.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION: RONETTA PEARSALL, BOARD MEMBER, OWNS LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET CHILD CARE CENTER WHICH CONTRACTS WITH WAKE COUNTY SMART START AS A NC PREK AND WAKE THREESCHOOL PROVIDER.

(E) SHARING OF ORGANIZATION REVENUES? = NO

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

OMB No. 1545-0047

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4C, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4D, OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES:
CHILD CARE EDUCATION AND QUALITY

IN WAKE COUNTY, 33 PERCENT OF THE "BIRTH-TO-FIVE" POPULATION ATTENDED REGULATED CHILD CARE. BECAUSE A CHILD'S EXPERIENCES IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS ARE OF SUCH A CRITICAL NATURE, WAKE COUNTY SMART START WORKS TO ENSURE THAT QUALITY CHILD CARE IS BOTH ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES WHO NEED IT. WAKE COUNTY SMART START INVESTS IN COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO PROVIDE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS IN REGULATED CHILDCARE, WORK WITH LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE QUALITY, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS TO INCREASE THEIR SKILLS. ADDITIONAL AREAS OF SUPPORT INCLUDE TRAINING, CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENTS, AND MENTORING PROGRAMS. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025, APPROXIMATELY 31 CHILD CARE FACILITIES WERE SERVED. PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED BY A STATE GRANT AND PROGRAM SERVICE FEES.

EXPENSES \$ 1,035,116. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 268,716. REVENUE \$ 2,375.

PROGRAM COORDINATION AND EVALUATION

WORK WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO ACHIEVE GOALS ARTICULATED IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN; WORK WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP EVALUATION PLANS AND TRACK IMPLEMENTATION; ASSESS PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS, PARTICIPATE IN STRATEGIC PLANNING; GATHER AND ANALYZE RELEVANT DATA; COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS; MANAGE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS. THE PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A STATE GRANT.

EXPENSES \$ 474,552. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 0. REVENUE \$ 0.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:

THE 990 IS COMPLETED BY A CPA FIRM. IT IS THEN REVIEWED BY THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE, AFTER REVIEW IT IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE FULL BOARD AND QUESTIONS ARE DIRECTED TO THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE. AFTER THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETED, THE RETURN IS SIGNED BY A BOARD OFFICER.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C:

THE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST POLICY REQUIRES BOARD MEMBERS TO ANNUALLY COMPLETE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM. THESE FORMS ARE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE. A SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBERS WITH CONFLICTS IS TAKEN TO THE FULL BOARD FOR ACTION. BOARD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON ITEMS WHICH THEY HAVE A CONFLICT. BOARD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO UPDATE THEIR CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FOR ANY CHANGES DURING THE YEAR.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15:

THE COMPENSATION AND REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS CONDUCTED BY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. COMPENSATION IS DETERMINED USING INDEPENDENT COMPARABLE DATA. THE ORGANIZATION HAS A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE LAST COMPENSATION REVIEW PERFORMED BY AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT WAS DONE IN 2022. THE ORGANIZATION'S SALARY

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule O (Form 990) (Rev. 12-2024)

LHA 432211 01-15-25

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415

STRUCTURE IS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUALLY AND ADJUSTED BASED ON MARKET DATA. THE NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN DEVELOPED A MANDATORY SALARY SCHEDULE FOR SMART START EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 AS REQUIRED BY STATE LEGISLATION. THE WAKE COUNTY SMART START EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALARY SCHEDULE.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19:

THE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN A PUBLIC FILE AT THE ORGANIZATION'S OFFICE. DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AND ON THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE, WWW.WAKESMARTSTART.ORG.