

REPORT ON SINGLE AUDIT  
WAKE COUNTY SMART START  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
KATHERINE WILLIAMS, BOARD CHAIR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
GAYLE HEADEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Wake County Smart Start

## Index

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	3
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program, Report on Internal Control Over Compliance and Report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance	5
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	8
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	9
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	10

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting  
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial  
Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

To Board Members of  
Wake County Smart Start  
Raleigh, North Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Wake County Smart Start (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 4, 2026.

As described in Note 1, the financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Wake County Smart Start's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Wake County Smart Start's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Wake County Smart Start's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of Wake County Smart Start's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given those limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

## Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Wake County Smart Start's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Wake County Smart Start's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Wake County Smart Start's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charlotte, North Carolina  
February 4, 2026

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program,  
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance and Report on the Schedule of  
Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

To the Board of Directors  
Wake County Smart Start  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

*Opinion on the Major Federal Program*

We have audited Wake County Smart Start's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Wake County Smart Start's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2025. Wake County Smart Start's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, Wake County Smart Start complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2025.

*Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program*

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS"); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance"). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of Wake County Smart Start and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of Wake County Smart Start's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

*Responsibilities of Management for Compliance*

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Wake County Smart Start's federal programs.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and to express an opinion on Wake County Smart Start's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Wake County Smart Start's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Wake County Smart Start's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of Wake County Smart Start's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Wake County Smart Start's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

### Report on Internal Control over Compliance

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that have not been identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

#### Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards Required by the Uniform Guidance

We have audited the financial statements of Wake County Smart Start as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated February 4, 2026, which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Uniform Guidance and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

*CohnReznick LLP*

Charlotte, North Carolina  
February 4, 2026

**Wake County Smart Start, Inc.**  
**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

Federal Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Expenditures
United States Department of Health and Human Services Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education Child Care and Development Block Grant (NC Pre-K)	93.575	47106	\$ -	\$ 151,391
Total CCDF Cluster			-	151,391
United States Department of Health and Human Services Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (NC Pre-K)	93.558	47106	-	4,180,670
United States Department of Health and Human Services Pass through from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health State Physical Activity and Nutrition	93.439	47028	-	84,230
Total United States Department of Health and Human Services			-	4,416,291
United States Department of Treasury Pass-through from the Triangle J Council of Governments, North Carolina COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA)	21.027	Wake65	-	54,231
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA)	21.027	Wake65B	-	407,157
Total United States Department of Treasury			-	461,388
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,877,679</b>

See Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

**WAKE COUNTY SMART START  
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

---

**NOTE 1 - BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards ("the Schedule") presents the expenditures of all federal award programs of Wake County Smart Start for the year ended June 30, 2025. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance"). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of Wake County Smart Start, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of Wake County Smart Start.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of Accounting**

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

**NOTE 3 - INDIRECT COST RATE**

Wake County Smart Start has elected to not use the de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

**WAKE COUNTY SMART START  
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

---

**Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results**

**Financial Statements**

Type of auditor's report issued on whether the audited financial statements were prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, as described in Note 1 to the basic financial statements:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified?  Yes  No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified?  Yes  None reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

Yes  No

**Federal Awards**

Internal control over major federal programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified?  Yes  No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified?  Yes  None reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.516(a)?

Yes  No

**Identification of Major Federal Programs:**

Federal Assistance

Listing Number	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
93.558	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:

\$750,000

Auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?

Yes  No

**Section II - Financial Statement Findings**

None reported.

**Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

None reported.