



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Durham's Partnership for Children Board of Directors announces approval of Direct Service Providers for FY 2010-2011

Durham, NC —In keeping with its mission to support innovative and successful collaborative approaches to serve the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families, Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Friday, that its Board of Directors approved an allocations plan to fund 17 programs for the upcoming fiscal year. Funded activities address early care and education, family support and health services delivered by local agencies and nonprofits to young children across Durham County.

On Thursday, May 20, the Board of Directors affirmed the recommendations of its Allocations Committee, which is comprised of board members and volunteers with no ties to prospective Smart Start funded organizations. The goal of the Allocations Committee is to conduct a mission-driven, proactive allocations process that utilizes outcomes and indicators set by the Partnership's Board and complies with the North Carolina Partnership for Children. The nine-month committee process includes an extensive review process with the priorities for decision making being: community needs, state performance priorities (PBIS), legislative mandates for spending, quality of proposals and impact of programs to best optimize the organization's limited funds. Based on the state's projections and the current state funding deficit, the Allocations Committee made their recommendations using a reduction to the base allocation of the initial FY 09/10 allocation level of \$6.78 million.

While actual Smart Start funding levels will depend on the state's adopted budget, Durham's Partnership for Children projects that local agencies will receive financial support for 17 recommended community activities beginning July 1, 2010.

"The Partnership's Board is working to maximize resources to ensure measurable results for young children and their families especially as we continue to stretch fewer resources to serve more young children." said Angie Welsh, Durham's Partnership for Children board chair.

Over the 15 years, the Partnership has worked towards its mission—to mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful collaborative approaches to serving the needs of children birth to 5 years of age and their families. The Partnership invests in multiple strategies to create systemic change in the child care industry, such as improving the quality of child care, increasing access to child care for low-income working families, and supporting early childhood teacher education. The Partnership also funds programs that provide education and support to families with young children who are not in licensed child care, health services for young children, the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program and the new Early Head Start program that serves infants and toddlers.

The 17 Smart Start funded activities and their agencies are:

Child Care Services Association

Choosing and Using Quality Child Care
Quality Enhancement
Quality Maintenance
Grow a Teacher
TEACH Early Childhood® AmeriCorps
Smart Start Scholarship Program

Child and Parent Support Services

Healthy Families Durham

Community Partnerships Inc.

Durham Inclusion Support Services

Durham Council for Children with Special Needs

Hispanic/Latino Consultation Services

Durham County Health Department

Nutrition Consultation Program

Durham County Cooperative Extension

Welcome Baby Family Resource Center

Durham's Partnership for Children

Community Awareness

More at Four Coordination

Program Coordination and Evaluation

El Centro Hispano

Family Support Program

Exchange Clubs' Family Center

Early Childhood Outreach (EChO)

Statewide Contracts

WAGES®

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children celebrates 15 years making young children a priority. Founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County, the Partnership works as an independent, local nonprofit that serves young children birth to age 5 and their families under North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 15 years, the Partnership has helped working parents pay for child care, improve the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership works to achieve its mission: *To mobilize and unify the Durham community to create and support innovative and successful approaches to serving the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families*, by working with funded partners, groups and organizations in Durham County to support and coordinate efforts impacting young children and their families. The Partnership also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County serving more than 400 children and the new Early Head Start Grant serving Durham infants and toddlers beginning May 2010. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.

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