



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Karine Stallings

PHONE: 919-403-6960 x221

Karine@dpfc.net

DURHAM'S PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES FUNDING PARTNERS FOR FY 2007-2008

Durham's Partnership for Children funds vital services for young children, their families

To continue working to ensure that children ages birth to 5, are healthy and ready for success in school and life, Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Wednesday, that its Board of Directors allocated **\$7.7 million** to 23 community activities in health, education and human services agencies and other nonprofits to serve children across Durham County.

Since 2000, Durham's Partnership for Children has invested nearly \$70 million in local funding to help young children, families and child care providers. The organization continues to invest in quality programs with this new funding cycle which began July 1, 2007. The fiscal year 07-08 allocation was approved by the NC State Legislature in late August and directed nearly **\$8.3 million** to Durham's Partnership for Children through an allocation made to by the North Carolina Partnership for Children. Durham's Partnership for Children did not receive a funding increase from the state this year.

"This year's allocation is the culmination of hundreds of volunteer hours to make sure the Partnership's public investment turns the best results in providing services for children, ages birth to five, in the areas of early care and education, family literacy and family support and health, including counseling for children with mental health concerns," said Michael Palmer, Durham's Partnership for Children Board Chair and Assistant Vice President for Community Affairs for Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership.

The Partnership's Board members and committee volunteers comprised of community members, civic leaders, and early childhood professionals, make sure Smart Start-funded projects are based on local needs and gaps in services to young children. Durham's Partnership for Children seeks bids on these services every two years. The Allocations Committee---comprised of Board members and community volunteers--- review all applications and make funding recommendations to the Board of Directors. Once in contract, these programs are monitored and outcomes are measured to track results.

This year, the Board approved two new activities. The first activity, Durham Inclusion Support Services, addresses the growing need for support services for young children with mental health and behavior concerns who are at risk of facing expulsion from child care facilities. The other activity, Grow A Teacher, provides academic support for Durham Tech students interested in working toward degrees in Early Childhood Education in an effort to build Durham's base of accredited early childhood teachers.

Volunteers also worked to make sure child care improvement programs were segmented to ensure service to child care services that were working to improve their quality and maintain quality.

Collectively, the following activities are expected to serve nearly 9,000 local children ages 0 to 5:

Child and Parent Support Services

- **Healthy Families Durham** Allocation: \$386,343

Child Care Services Association

- Child Care Substitute Program Allocation: \$256,022
- Child Care Quality Improvement Project (QE) Allocation: \$142,034,
- Child Care Quality Maintenance (QM) Allocation: \$340,854
- Choosing and Using Quality Child Care Allocation: \$254,297
- Grow A Teacher Allocation: \$50,000
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® AmeriCorps Program Allocation: \$14,160
- WAGES® Allocation: \$808,900

Community Partnerships

- Durham Inclusion Support Services Allocation: \$60,000

Durham Council for Children with Special Needs

- Hispanic/ Latino Family Consultation Services Allocation: \$119,583

Durham County Cooperative Extension

- Welcome Baby Family Resource Center Allocation: \$298,984

Durham County Health Department

- Healthy Smiles/ Healthy Kids Expansion Allocation: \$33,102
- Nutrition Consultation delivered Allocation: \$64,918

Durham County Department of Social Services- Durham's Alliance for Child Care Access (DACCA)

- Smart Start Subsidy Administration Allocation: \$552,321
- Smart Start Child Care Subsidy delivered Allocation: \$2,284,366
- Smart Start More at Four Subsidy Allocation: \$1,255,179

Durham's Partnership for Children

- Community Awareness & Education Allocation: \$83,356
- More at Four Coordination Allocation: \$76,470
- Program & Evaluation Allocation: \$149,893

El Centro Hispano, Inc

- FAMOSA: Familias Obrando, Sostenendo y Avanzando (Families Working, Sustaining and Advancing) Allocation: \$255,728

Exchange Clubs' Family Center

- Child Care Based Mental Health Intervention Allocation: \$36,866
- Early Childhood Outreach Project (EChO) Allocation: \$140,000

The Arc of Durham County

- Early Childhood Support Program Allocation: \$79,900

About Durham's Partnership for Children

Durham's Partnership for Children was founded in 1994 and first funded in 1995 to administer the Smart Start grant in Durham County. Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized initiative to ensure all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Smart Start helps working parents pay for childcare, improves the quality of childcare and provides health and family support services in every North Carolina County. The Partnership works with funded partners (affiliated organizations) 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 0-5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the Governor's More at Four Program in Durham County.

For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.