

2007-2008 FINAL ACTIVITY EVALUATION REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Smart Initiative

September 2008



Prepared by the Program and Evaluation Group

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Introduction

Durham's Partnership for Children (DPfC) is a non-profit organization that administers state Smart Start funds to local service providers in Durham County. The mission of the Partnership is 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.



Report Overview

The Final Activity Evaluation Report for FY 2007-08 first summarizes the Partnership's funding profile (overall and by program area), and the impact of funding, including the number of child care centers and homes that have been served through Smart Start-funded activities.

The remainder of the report organizes and views the funded partners' activities and outcomes through the lens of School Readiness. A large body of research indicates that a child's early years are critical to later learning and success in school and in life. Investments in early childhood have long-term outcomes in multiple areas, including education, social skills and behavior, cognition and health. National research initiatives have developed a school readiness framework to describe the components that influence children's ability to be ready for school success: Ready Communities, Ready Families, and Ready Schools result in chil-

dren who are ready for school success. A Ready Community offers resources, services, and supports for families with young children, including high-quality child care and health services. With appropriate and available health care services, parent education, and literacy training, Ready Families provide stable and supportive environments with opportunities to learn and grow.

Particular focus is given in this report to the role the funded partners play in fostering Ready Communities and Ready Families. This year's focus is a departure from the past two years, when the report was organized more intentionally on the accomplishment of outcomes related to the state's Performance Based Incentive System (PBIS). This year the report goes beyond PBIS to give a more comprehensive view of the Partnership's impact on School Readiness.

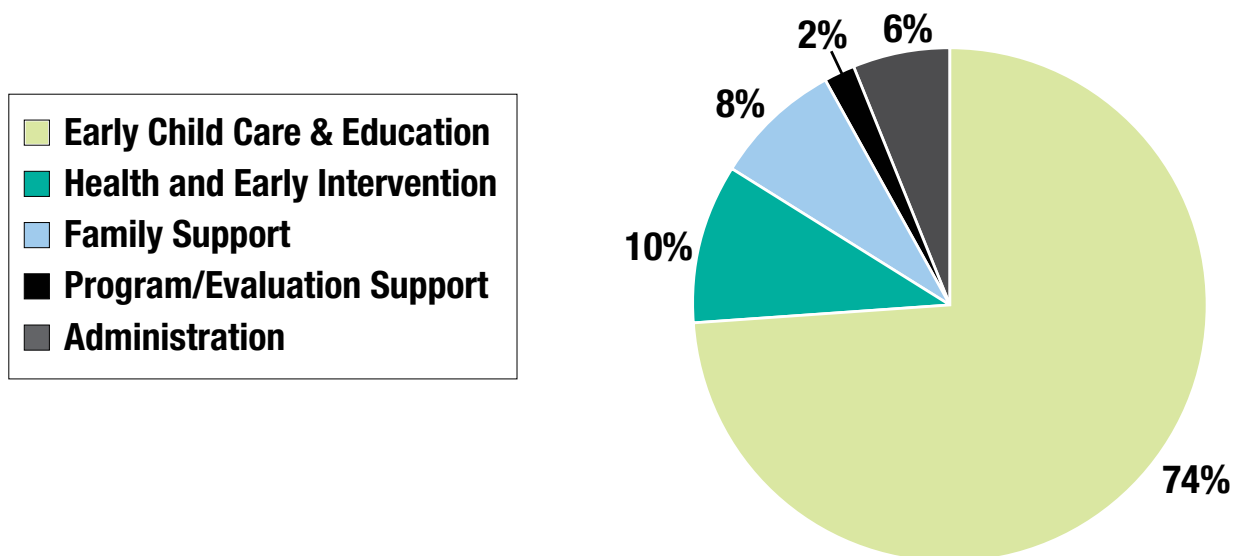
Smart Start Funding

The following figure summarizes the Partnership's overall funding profile. By far the largest expenditure (74%) goes to foster a Ready Community through Early Child Care and Education (ECE). ECE-related expenditures include child care subsidies for low-income families, resource and referral services to guide parents toward the highest quality placements, and technical assistance, support and professional development counseling to increase the quality of child care. Funded partners also contribute to a Ready Community through Health and Early Intervention Services (H/EI; 10%) including referrals for evaluation of developmental delays, consultation and training for parents and teachers

of children with challenging behaviors, dental nutrition education for families, consultation for child care staff to improve overall nutrition provided by the facility, and interpretation and translation services that enable primarily Spanish-speaking families to access H/EI services and also enable H/EI service providers to better serve these families.

Another 8% of total funding is allocated to support Ready Families through Family Support Services such as parent education and family literacy training (8%). The remaining 8% is allocated for general administration and capacity building including Program and Evaluation.

Smart Start Expenditures FY 07/08



**Table 1
Smart Start Funding Overview FY 07/08**

Name of Project	Agency	Initial Allocation	(Reversion)/ Reallocation	Final Allocation
Early Care and Education				
Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE)	Child Care Services Association	142,034		142,034
Child Care Quality Maintenance (QM)	Child Care Services Association	340,854	(28,840)	312,014
Child Care Substitute Program	Child Care Services Association	256,022		256,022
Choosing and Using Quality Child Care	Child Care Services Association	254,297		254,297
Grow a Teacher	Child Care Services Association	50,000	(7,560)	42,440
More at Four Coordination	Durham's Partnership for Children	76,470		76,470
Smart Start Child Care Subsidy Smart Start MAF Subsidy and Subsidy Admin.	Durham County Department of Social Services	4,091,866	49,088	4,140,954
TEACH Early Childhood AmeriCorps Program	Child Care Services Association	14,160	(7,572)	6,588
WAGE\$	Child Care Services Association	808,900	59,057	867,957
Health and Early Intervention				
Child Care Based Mental Health Intervention	Exchange Clubs' Family Center	36,866		36,866
Durham Inclusion Support Services	Community Partnerships, Inc.	60,000		60,000
Early Childhood Outreach Project (ECHO)	Exchange Clubs' Family Center	140,000	2,000	142,000
Early Childhood Support Program	The ARC of Durham County	79,900		79,900
Healthy Smiles/Healthy Kids Expansion	Durham County Health Department	33,102	(18,787)	14,315
Hispanic/Latino Family Consultation Services	Durham Council for Children with Special Needs	119,583	2,000	121,583
Nutrition Consultation Program	Durham County Health Department	64,918	(6,298)	58,620
Family Support				
FAMOSA	El Centro Hispano	255,728		255,728
Healthy Families Durham	Child and Parent Support Services	386,343	2,000	388,343
Welcome Baby Family Resource Center	Durham County Cooperative Extension	298,984		
Community Development and Capacity Building				
Community Awareness	Durham's Partnership for Children	83,356		83,356
Program and Evaluation	Durham's Partnership for Children	179,893	4,000	183,893
TOTAL		\$7,773,276		\$7,773,276

Impact of Funding

Ready Communities – Early Care and Education Quality Child Care

Table 2 (at the bottom of the page) shows the number (unduplicated count) of child care sites, by type of license, that are served by Smart Start-funded activities aimed at increasing the quality of child care in Durham. These direct service providers include AmeriCorps TEACH, Child Care Substitute, Durham Inclusion Support Services, Early Childhood Outreach (EChO), Grow a Teacher, Nutrition Consultation, Quality Enhancement, and Quality Maintenance. The 192 child care sites served with Smart Start dollars represent approximately 56% of all licensed child care sites in Durham County. Of the sites served, 49.4% were centers and 50.6% were homes. Total child enrollment at these sites is approximately 5,200 children birth – 5.

As state licensing requirements have shifted from the three-component to the two-component system, funded partners have worked with centers and homes to help them increase or maintain their star ratings. Both Child Care Quality Enhancement and Quality Maintenance activities have exceeded expectations for sites that have completed assess-

ments/reassessments and have increased stars and maintained stars. However, there were also a number of sites that were in the assessment process and were waiting for scale results, assessment dates or visits, or assessment of staff education and therefore the results for those sites were not known at the time of the Year End Reports.

Another factor that influences the quality of child care in Durham County is the efforts of several funded partners to impact the qualifications and preparedness of lead and assistant child care teachers. Veteran funded partners (CC Substitute, More at Four, AmeriCorps TEACH, and WAGE\$) have for the most part exceeded their expectations for helping lead and assistant teachers to successfully complete additional coursework in ECE. A new initiative, Grow a Teacher, aimed at supporting teachers through professional development counseling, did not meet its projected outcomes in its first year due to staff turnover and new staff coming on board at times just after key enrollment periods for the following semesters.

Access to Quality Child Care

The combined efforts of Choosing & Using, Durham’s Alliance for Child Care Access (DACCA), and More at Four help children and families in Durham County access high-quality, regulated child care programs. Through the collaborative work of DACCA, 4,377 children birth to age 5 living in low-income families received child care subsidies at some point during FY 07/08. The More at Four program served 415 at-risk 4-year-olds through quality pre-kindergarten. More than 2,000 parents/guardians (2,032) received education about quality child care and referral services through Choosing and Using Quality Child Care. The quality of child care placements resulting from the work of these three funded partners exceeds the state’s minimum standards of 3.25 average star rating or 60% of children receiving subsidy enrolled in 4-5 star child care programs.

**Table 2
Child Care Sites Served with Smart Start Funds**

5 Star	4 Star	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star	Other ¹	Total
47	53	46	12	12	22	192
24.5 %	27.6 %	24.0 %	6.3 %	6.2 %	11.5 %	100%

¹Other includes GS 110-106, Temp CCH, Temp CCC, Provisional, Other

Ready Communities– Health and Early Intervention Services

Four funded partners (DISS, EChO, Healthy Families Durham, and Hispanic/Latino Consultation) provide initial developmental screenings for children who are at-risk for special needs. All four programs have had success in identifying children who are potentially eligible for special services and referring them for the full developmental evaluation at CDSA or DPS. In three of the four programs, all or most of the children referred also received an evaluation. Hispanic/Latino Consultation (HLCS) has had some difficulty with having the children they refer evaluated.

Next fiscal year, HLCS will provide follow-up to families that are referred to DPS to ensure that referred children receive evaluations.

Smart Start dollars in Durham County also fund a wide variety of H/EI activities to support children, families, and child care providers in other ways. Other activities include therapies for children with challenging behaviors that enable them to remain in their classrooms, specialized therapies and interventions that enable children with special needs to maintain and/or improve their developmental growth, workshops for parents that increase their awareness and understanding of good overall and dental nutrition, and training events for child care providers that improve their abilities to work effectively with children who have behavioral challenges. With a few exceptions, the funded partners who work in this area have exceeded their expected outcomes.

Ready Families – Family Support Services

Durham's Partnership for Children funds a continuum of Family Support programming in Durham County including linking families to community resources, hospital visits to new parents, curriculum-based parent education and literacy series and an intensive home visiting program. Parenting skills workshops conducted by FAMOSA and Welcome Baby have led participating parents to feel increased competence and confidence about their ability to apply what they have learned to raising their children.

FAMOSA and Welcome Baby also provide activities designed to increase the amount of literacy activity that takes place in the families they serve. In this area, they have had mixed success at meeting their expected outcomes. Welcome Baby was more successful at increasing the number of literacy events in participating families, whether from a level of zero to one or two events per week or from a level of two to three events per week. FAMOSA has had greater success at increasing literacy activity from fewer than four events per week to more than four events per week.

Summary of Accomplishments

Looking across all outcomes reported in all program areas, it is evident that the majority of the outcomes for which the funded partners are responsible have been met or exceeded (75%). Nearly two-thirds (65%) of the funded partners' outcomes exceeded expectations. Relatively few (16%) did not meet expectations for a variety of reasons, none of which suggests a specific pattern for concern (see Table 3).

Table 3
Accomplishments of Outcomes by Program Area^{1,2}

Program Area	Exceeded Expectations	Met Expectations	Made Significant Progress ³	Did Not Meet Expectations
ECE Quality of Placements	16	1	1	2 ⁴
ECE Staff	9	3		4 ⁵
Health/Early Intervention	18	3	5	4 ⁶
Family Support	9	1	1	3 ⁷
Totals	52	8	7	13
Percents	65%	10%	9%	16%

1. Numbers in this table include 7 miscellaneous outcomes that were not included in the outcomes tables for Ready Communities and Ready Families.
2. Table reflects outcomes as reported by the funded partners, without reference to related outputs (i.e., whether they were achieved) or survey response rates.
3. An outcome was considered to reflect significant progress if it was within .05 points (in the case of star ratings) or 5 percentage points of expectations.
4. Reflects less than expected average quality of subsidized placements for children with special/developmental needs and greater than expected difficulty in maintaining national accreditation.
5. Reflects some shortfalls in enrollment in ECE classes and earned semester credit hours.
6. Reflects (H/EI) less than expected performance on a variety of outcomes; including improvement of developmental skills, scheduling dental appointments, acquisition of specific knowledge and skills, and accomplishment of teacher action plan goals.
7. Reflects (FS) less than expected growth in weekly literacy activities and knowledge of community resources.