



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Karine Stallings

Durham's Partnership for Children
Community Development Manager
403-6960 x221

Karine@dpfc.net

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010

Durham's Partnership for Children Awarded \$3.3 Million Two Year Federal Grant to Provide Early Head Start Services

First Early Head Start Grant Awarded in Durham to Serve 120 Infants and Toddlers.

Durham, NC — Durham's Partnership for Children, a Smart Start Initiative, announced Tuesday that the federal government selected Durham County for a new Early Head Start program to be established.

Durham County has 15,600 children birth to three years of age and over 3,500 (22.9 percent) of these children are living in poverty. Although child well-being indicators for Durham County are extremely troubling and there is a serious need for high-quality infant-toddler services, there has never been an Early Head Start program in the county.

After Durham's Partnership led a year-long Infant Toddler planning process, it was thrilled to see the federal government dedicate new dollars, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to Head Start and Early Head Start. Out of the \$17 million additional funds dedicated to expand Early Head Start in North Carolina for the next two years, Durham was awarded \$3.3 million (\$1.6 million for the first year) to implement a program for 120 children from birth to age 3. The Partnership will utilize both center-based and home-based service options that allow the flexibility to meet the unique needs of children and families in Durham County.

The Partnership will collaborate with high-quality service providers in order to maximize expertise and enhance outcomes for young children and their families. The Partnership brings its thorough knowledge of the Durham community with Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project's (CHTOP) extensive experience in administering Early Head Start services and Healthy Families Durham's (HFD) expertise in intensive home visiting services. In addition to contracting with HFD for the provision of intensive home visiting services, CHTOP will contract with private high-quality child care sites in the community to provide center-based services. All Durham County Early Head Start staff will be based in Durham at space donated by the county in the Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center. The grant will likely create at least 12 new jobs in Durham.

"The Durham community enthusiastically backs the EHS program. Starting early is critical, especially for our young children who live in poverty. Exposure to high-quality programming can and will make a difference." said County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow, who serves on Durham's Partnership for Children's Board.

Marsha Basloe, executive director of Durham's Partnership for Children, adds: "The Partnership is pleased to obtain these additional resources for Durham County. I am grateful to Partnership staff for all their hard work to make this opportunity happen for our young children and families."

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 year, 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 and mobilizing 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 400 children. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext 221.