



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Durham's Partnership for Children Board of Directors Announces Approval of Direct Service Providers for FY 2009-2010**

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 Wednesday, that its Board of Directors approved an allocations plan to fund 18 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 21, 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 six-month committee process included proposal reviews, interviews with potential bidders, a priority-based rating system, an assessment of community needs and other measures 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 base allocation that is \$1.2 million or 15 percent less than fiscal year 2008-2009 Smart Start allocation.

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 18 recommended community activities beginning July 1, 2009.

"This year's allocation planning process was the most difficult I have experienced during my 13 years on this board," said Michael Palmer, Durham's Partnership for Children Board Chair. "We are clearly challenged to stretch our resources to serve more with less. Given the uncertain and pessimistic state revenue projections, this plan represents our best effort to sustain our more effective programs based on prescribed Smart Start performance standards — criterion for Durham County's Smart Start funding."

The 18 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

#### **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 (formerly FAMOSA)

**Exchange Clubs' Family Center**

Early Childhood Outreach (EChO)

**Statewide Contracts**

DACCA Subsidy Administration Support

Smart Start Scholarship Program

WAGES®

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**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 child care, improves the quality of child care 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 ages birth to 5 and their families." Durham's Partnership for Children also administers the More at Four Program in Durham County. For more information about Durham's Partnership for Children, visit [www.dpfc.net](http://www.dpfc.net) or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

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