



Media contact:

Elaine Erteschik
Communications Manager
Durham's Partnership for Children
919-403-6960, ext. 221
elaine@dpfc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Durham's Partnership for Children receives \$1.77 million federal grant
Funding supports Durham Early Head Start through Child Care Partnerships**

Durham, NC – **Durham's Partnership for Children (the Partnership)**, a *Smart Start Initiative*, has been named the recipient of a \$1.77 million Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grant. The funding is awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in order to expand access to high-quality care for infants and toddlers.

Early Head Start is a free, comprehensive child development and family support program for low-income expectant women and families with infants and toddlers ages birth to three. In 2009, the Partnership became the grantee for the Durham Early Head Start (DEHS) program, which currently serves 108 families and children throughout Durham County each year. DEHS offers both home-based and center-based care programs and is a collaboration between the Partnership, Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project, Inc., the Center for Child & Family Health, and three local five-star child care centers.

The EHS-CC Partnership Grant allows DEHS to serve an additional 64 children in high-quality child care centers. The grant establishes funding to partner with local child care providers to provide full-day, year-round services that meet the needs of low-income working families and enhance access to high-quality child care.

In 2014, DEHS conducted a Community Assessment that found that nearly 70% of children between the ages of 0 and 3 are in need of child care, with more than 450 children age 0-3 on the waiting list to receive child care subsidy. There are currently an additional 450 children and families on the DEHS waiting list.

"We know that there is a high level of poverty in our community and an immense need for child care and family support," said Laura Benson, Partnership Executive Director. "Securing this grant is essential to expanding comprehensive high-quality services to serve more of Durham's most vulnerable children and families. We are thrilled to be able to convene additional community partners who share our goal of preparing children for success in school and in life."

The Partnership recently accepted proposals from child care centers interested in becoming a DEHS child care partner and is in the process of selecting centers to serve the 64 new slots provided by the grant. Enrollment is expected to begin in August 2015.

In recognition of this new funding for Durham's children and families, the Partnership is hosting a Grant Award Celebration on Monday, June 8 at 8:30 am. This event is open to invited guests and media.

WHAT: Grant Award Celebration

WHERE: Jim and Carolyn Hunt Child Care Resource Center

1201 S. Briggs Avenue, Durham, NC 27703

WHEN: June 8th, 2015
8:30 am - 9:30 am

About Durham's Partnership for Children - 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 to ensure that all children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. For 20 years, the Partnership has helped parents pay for child care, improved the quality of child care and provided health and family support services to thousands of Durham County families with young children. The Partnership leverages the public and private sectors to achieve its mission: *To ensure every child in Durham enters school ready to succeed, we lead community strategies for children birth to 5 and their families that promote healthy development and learning and enhance access to high quality care.* The Partnership administers Smart Start, NC Pre-K, and Early Head Start in Durham County. For more information about the Partnership, visit www.dpfc.net or call 919-403-6960, ext. 221.

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