



Current Programs

Smart Start is North Carolina's nationally recognized early childhood initiative to ensure that young children enter school healthy and prepared for success.

This public-private initiative provides early childhood funding to local Partnerships throughout North Carolina's 100 counties. Funds allocated to the Partnerships by the State General Assembly support programs identified on the local level to meet the needs of the counties served.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties provides services through programs operating in partnership with governmental and non-profit groups to impact the health and education of children ages birth through five.

Current Programs:

Adolescent Parenting Program (APP): APP provides services and support to young Lincoln County parents who have a child or children ages birth through five, or are expecting a child. This activity is operated by Lincoln County Department of Social Services.

Very Important Parents (VIP): VIP works with parents to demonstrate developmentally appropriate parenting practices that support positive parent/child interactions, and the program serves as a centralized source of support for parents of children ages birth through five. This activity is operated by Gaston County Cooperative Extension.

Parent Resource and Referral provides child care availability referrals and information on community resources to parents of young children and maintains an up-to-date computerized database on child care supply and demand for spaces in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Family Resource Center provides program coordination and planning as well as programs aimed at improving the overall lives of children aged 0-5 and their families in the community. Programs for families with children birth to five will include Parenting classes, Life Skills classes, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and child and adult literacy opportunities. This activity is operated by Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Inc.

Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Program improves the quality of child development services in primary care medical practices in Gaston and Lincoln counties to enhance developmental screening and referral for children ages 0-5 in the context of the medical home. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

Child Care Health Consultants work to improve the health, safety, and nutrition of children ages birth to five attending licensed child care centers and family care homes in Lincoln and Gaston counties. This activity is administered by the Health Departments serving each of the counties.

Child Care Subsidy & Administration purchases child care for children whose families meet local, state and federal requirements. It is administered by the Department of Social Services office in each county.

Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP): provides incentives for completing college courses to child care professionals who meet program eligibility. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Quality Enhancement: This project provides on-site technical assistance and child care staff training opportunities to improve quality in child care centers and family child care homes rated four stars or below in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This activity is administered by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Quality Sustainability: This activity provides financial support to sustain four and five star facilities that meet high-quality indicators. In addition, participating facilities receive on-site technical assistance and child care staff training opportunities to sustain high quality. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Gaston County NC Prekindergarten Program Subsidy: provides local supplements to help provide sufficient funding to cover the cost of this high quality program to approved Gaston County child care facilities conducting NCPK programs at their site.

WAGE\$ provides incentives to early childhood professionals who meet program eligibility to increase teacher education levels and decrease turnover. WAGE\$ is administered by the Child Care Services Association.

Program Coordination and Collaboration develops and maintains relationships with service providers, and provides services critical to program accountability. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Community Outreach Services connects Lincoln and Gaston county communities to services impacting families and children through a variety of public relations measures, including participation at community fairs, publications, and informing the public

through the Partnership's website, www.pfcfg.com. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

Lincoln County NC Prekindergarten program administration is conducted by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties and is responsible for verification of the child's eligibility and contract compliance with NCPK program guidelines.