



## 2007-2008 Programs

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

This public-private initiative provides early childhood funding to 79 Partnerships throughout North Carolina's 100 counties. Funds are allocated to the partnerships by the State General Assembly, and services are identified on the local level to meet the needs of the counties served.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties will provide services to Lincoln and Gaston residents through 18 Smart Start programs this fiscal year. The programs operate in partnership with 10 governmental and non-profit groups to impact the health and education of children ages birth through five.

### **2007-2008 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:** This activity provides child care information to parents of young children and maintains a 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:** The Family Resource Center provides free programs to all Lincoln County residents who are parents or guardians of children ages birth to five. Activities include parenting classes, English as a Second Language (ESL), General Educational Development (GED) classes, and child and adult literacy opportunities. This activity is operated by Communities In Schools of Lincoln County, Inc.

**Early Intervention and Awareness:** A Child Development Awareness Specialist provides information regarding the importance and availability of early

intervention services in Gaston and Lincoln Counties to area agencies and organizations that impact families, physicians and pediatric therapists. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

**Health Check Coordination:** The Health Check Coordination Program supports two Health Check Coordinators to identify children ages birth to five who are eligible for Medicaid, and educate their parents/guardians on the importance of regular preventive care. This program is operated by Community Health Partners.

**Children's Advocacy Center Therapy Support:** This activity provides reimbursement of treatment/counseling fees to eligible families being served at qualifying Children's Advocacy Centers in Lincoln and Gaston Counties. This activity is administered by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

**Child Care Health Consultants—**Two full-time North Carolina-certified 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:** This subsidy program 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):** Through this program, child care professionals are able to receive professional development planning assistance, financial incentives for completing college courses, and other professional support opportunities. This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

**Quality Enhancement:** This project provides on-site technical assistance, training opportunities, and incentives to child care providers 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 and technical support to qualified high quality four and five star facilities that serve children ages birth through five years that meet specific goals and high-quality indicators. This activity also requires participants to meet specific program and education point levels as identified in their state license. This program is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.

**Gaston County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Subsidy:** The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties provides supplemental funding to child care centers providing More at Four services in Gaston County. The Partnership also provides supplemental funding to child care centers

providing More at Four services for up to the number of slots approved for Gaston County child care facilities.

Lincoln County More at Four Pre-kindergarten Program Administration: The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties serves as the More at Four administrator for Lincoln County, and is responsible for verification of the child's eligibility and the More at Four site's compliance with More at Four program guidelines. The Partnership also provides supplemental funding to child care centers providing More at Four services for up to the number of slots approved for Lincoln County child care facilities.

WAGE\$: WAGE\$ is designed to provide incentives to early childhood professionals to increase teacher education levels and decrease turnover. WAGE\$ is administered by the Child Care Services Association.

Program Coordination and Collaboration: This activity, operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties, provides a variety of tools to help other Smart Start funded programs work efficiently. Staff brings community organizations together to work toward common goals, improve the service delivery system, evaluate service effectiveness, identify needs and remedies, maximize the use of resources, and identify under served populations.

Community Outreach Services: Through this activity, citizens are connected to Smart Start services through a variety of methods, including participation at community fairs, publications, and informing the public through the Partnership's website, [www.pfclg.com](http://www.pfclg.com). This activity is operated by the Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties.