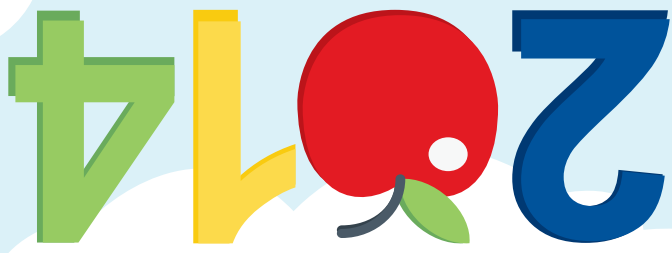


The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties is a nonprofit organization that provides services for local families and children through Smart Start, North Carolina's award-winning early childhood initiative.



ANNUAL REPORT



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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (As of July 1, 2013)

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Gaston County Schools
Tammy Kane, Vice Chair
Truliant Federal Credit Union
William Gross, Secretary
Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services
Erma Deen Hoyle, Treasurer
Lincoln County Parks & Recreation Department
Adrian Miller, Past Chair
City of Belmont

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Finance Coordinator
Amy Wadsworth
Public Information Coordinator
Kimberly Ward
Technical Assistant
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Executive Assistant

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Champions of our Children and Families

It is with great pleasure to share with you, our stakeholders and community partners, the results of our efforts and some of the key strategic initiatives that the Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties (Partnership) has undertaken during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The Partnership's objective is to provide programming designed to help children served reach their full health and educational potential by the time they enter into kindergarten. Although our programmatic focus is for children aged birth to five along with their families, we hope to prepare children for lifetime learning and success. We hope this Annual Report will provide you some insight on our commitment to this objective.

During this fiscal year, some of the highlights included:

- Our Board of Directors adopted a new governance model and made changes to the Partnership's Bylaws to accommodate it. Board membership will continue to represent local government, service organizations and businesses/communities.
- Changes were made to our Quality Sustainability Program, providing financial incentives for teachers to pursue higher education and to reduce turnover. Results to date are favorable in that more teachers have enrolled in early education college level courses and teacher turnover has been reduced.
- A new program evaluation process was implemented using an objective third party consultant/evaluator to assure high quality programs and activities are being provided by the Partnership, both internally and externally (i.e., direct service providers).
- A Strategic Planning Retreat was held to begin the process of updating strategies and actions plans for the next three years. Participants included Board members, community leaders and staff.
- Educational Forums for Owners/Directors of Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes were provided throughout the year.
- Early childhood literacy and physical activity were key areas of focus. Thanks to First Book and the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services, free books were made available for distribution to children at Partnership sponsored events such as Boogie with Books in the Park (multiple events) and Spooktacular. Free books were also distributed by the Partnership throughout the year at various festivals sponsored by other organizations throughout Gaston and Lincoln counties.
- Special collaborative work with other organizations to reduce infant mortality and its disparity continued.
- A review of the Partnership's Employee Handbook was completed and recommendations for improvement have been made. A revised edition of the Handbook is currently in process.

We know that there are only 2000 days from a child's birth to the time he/she enters kindergarten. We also know that getting things right the first time is much easier and more effective than trying to fix them later. That is why our work is so timely and important. It is about our future.

Thank you for your partnership in this most worthy endeavor.



Tammy Kane
Tammy Kane
Board Chair



Michael E. Linker
Michael Linker
Executive Director



INCOME

Smart Start Administration	\$307,096
Smart Start Services	\$3,432,186
Smart Start Other	\$3,771
NCPRE-K Lincoln County	\$815,753
Parent Resource & Referral	\$23,625
Race to the Top/Early Learning Challenge	\$15,188
Multi-Partnership Accounting & Contracting	\$15,085
First 2000 Days Faith Summit Grant	\$1,500
Total:	\$4,614,204

EXPENDITURES

★ Early Care & Education	Total: \$2,952,079
Child Care Subsidy - Gaston	\$1,010,000
Child Care Subsidy - Lincoln	\$385,000
Child Care Subsidy Administration - Gaston	\$131,300
Child Care Subsidy Administration - Lincoln	\$70,000
Quality Enhancement (QE)	\$136,274
Quality Sustainability (QS)	\$1,041,058
Individual Professional Development Program (IPDP)	\$56,322
WAGES	\$122,125
★ Family Support	Total: \$138,256
Adolescent Parenting Program	\$84,750
Very Important Parenting Program	\$53,506
★ Health	Total: \$154,423
Assuring Better Child Health & Development	\$44,153
Child Care Health Consultant - Gaston	\$55,450
Child Care Health Consultant - Lincoln	\$54,820
★ Administrative Functions	Total: \$498,295
Administration	\$307,096
Program Coordination	\$112,427
Community Outreach	\$78,772
★ Grants	Total: \$871,151
NC Pre-K Lincoln County	\$815,753
Parent Resource & Referral	\$23,625
Race to The Top Early Learning Challenge	\$15,188
Multi-Partnership Accounting & Contracting	\$15,085
First 2000 Days Faith Summit Grant (Payable)	\$1,500
Total:	\$4,614,204

CASH & IN-KIND

Cash & In-Kind	\$647,962
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HOW WE HELPED



As of June 30, 2014,



there were an estimated

22,235

children aged 0-5 in Lincoln and Gaston Counties

An estimated

5,108

children aged 0-5 attended licensed child care in Lincoln and Gaston Counties

73%

of those were in 4 or 5 star facilities

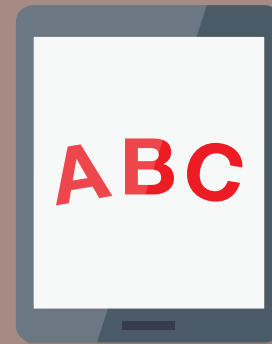


97

child care facilities received technical assistance on environmental rating scales and general licensure through our QE and QS programs

1,771

children were enrolled in facilities being served by Child Care Health Consultants in Lincoln and Gaston Counties



37 providers in **12**

practices received updated information regarding early intervention including screening and referral processes impacting

13,101 children

85

child care facilities received technical assistance on health, nutrition, sanitation and safety



72

child care professionals working in

49

facilities earned a WAGE\$ supplement

85

families received parenting help through our family support services



81

child care professionals in

43

child care facilities earned financial incentives for earning college credit impacting

1,633

children through our IPDP program

QS

Quality Sustainability Program

OUR MISSION

“Serving as a leading advocate and collaborative resource to provide access to high quality services for young children.”

OUR VISION

“A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.”



This program provides financial support to four and five star child care facilities that meet high quality indicators. The star-rated licensure indicates the level of quality that the child care facility has earned (5-Star being the highest level). Star levels are earned on the basis of various factors including staff education and program standards (i.e., the higher the star level the higher the expectations).



Participating facilities receive on-site technical assistance and staff training as part of this program. In addition, payments are made to four and five star facilities to encourage and sustain high quality, including a teacher education bonus and a quality sustainability component. Payments for the teacher education bonuses (\$290,679) and quality sustainability (\$574,439) totaled \$865,118 in fiscal year 2013-2014.

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