

WAKE COUNTY



Smart Start

FACT SHEET

Each Child. Every Community. Ready for School and Life.



How we prepare young children for Kindergarten impacts their future.



Nearly **33%** of children in Wake County live in poverty



When children start behind, they often stay behind.



34.8% of Wake County third graders are not reading at grade level



Children are **4 times** more likely to drop out of school if they are not reading at grade level by 3rd grade

WCSS invests in programs that help children start Kindergarten ready to learn.

We focus on the essentials needed for a strong foundation in life:



Good Health

By improving access to healthy foods and exercise at **19** Shape NC sites, reaching **1,282** children in child care.



Strong Families

By connecting families to needed resources through Wake Connections—an online referral system used by **72** programs to efficiently coordinate services.



HIGH QUALITY Learning Experiences

By ensuring Kindergarten success that lasts—**91%** of Wake County's Pre-K graduates meet "ready for school" measures.

WCSS also works to improve our early childhood system of care and education. Visit our website at www.wakesmartstart.org to learn about all of our programs and how we support young children and their success in school and life.

Thank you to our Investment Champions:



Program name | Managing agency

Supporting Families: \$1,529,474

- **Language is the Key** | Catholic Charities | \$76,538
- **Nurse-Family Partnership** | Wake County Human Services | \$82,500
- **Parents as Teachers** | Office of Early Learning, Wake County Public School System | \$621,456
- **SecurePath** | Lucy Daniels Center | \$450,000
- **Crianza con Cariño** | SAFEchild | \$84,526
- **Hope at Home** | Hope Services, LLC | \$109,454
- **Wake Connections** | Wake County Smart Start | \$105,000

Improving Child Care Quality: \$6,461,158

- **Advancing School Readiness** | Child Care Services Association | \$163,135
- **Child Care Health Consultant Program** | Wake County Human Services | \$462,759
- **Child Care Subsidy Program** | Wake County Human Services | \$5,583,458
- **Improving and Sustaining Quality Child Care** | Wake County Smart Start | \$251,806

Healthy Initiatives: \$445,505

- **Shape NC: Healthy Starts for Young Children, an initiative of Smart Start and BCBSNC Foundation** | Funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Social Innovation Fund, managed by Wake County Smart Start | \$183,570
- **Healthy Starts for Infants and Toddlers: Shape NC** | Wake County Smart Start | \$133,500
- **Farm to Child Care** | Funded by John Rex Endowment, managed by Wake County Smart Start | \$128,435

Encouraging Healthy Development and School Readiness: \$14,407,185

- **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** | Wake County Smart Start | \$52,500
- **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)** | The Family Resource Center South Atlantic | \$321,726
- **NC Pre-Kindergarten** | Wake County Smart Start | \$13,965,690
- **School Readiness Services for Hispanic Children & Families** | Catholic Charities | \$67,269

Strengthening the Early Childhood System of Care and Education: \$588,169

- **Systems Improvement and Public Engagement** | Wake County Smart Start | \$348,260
- **Program Coordination and Evaluation** | Wake County Smart Start | \$239,909

JOIN US:



Wake County Smart Start budget as of July 1, 2019. Fact sheet sources: Annie E. Casey Foundation, NC State Demographer, NC Department of Child Development and Early Education, NC Partnership for Children, NC Department of Public Instruction, Wake County Smart Start.

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