

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Form 990

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

2023

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2023 calendar year, or tax year beginning JUL 1, 2023 and ending JUN 30, 2024

B Check if applicable: C Name of organization: WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC. D Employer identification number: 56-1949415 E Telephone number: 919-851-9550 G Gross receipts \$: 25,102,327. H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? H(b) Are all subordinates included? I Tax-exempt status: J Website: WWW.WAKESMARTSTART.ORG K Form of organization: L Year of formation: 1994 M State of legal domicile: NC

Part I Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 1 Briefly describe the organization's mission... 2 Check this box... 3-7a Activities & Governance... 8-12 Revenue... 13-19 Expenses... 20-22 Net Assets or Fund Balances.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here: Signature of officer MATTHEW GLOVA, TREASURER Date: 10/30/24. Preparer: ELIZABETH MAUCH Date: 10/30/2024 PTIN: P01988953. Firm's name: BLACKMAN & SLOOP ADVISORS, INC. Firm's address: 1414 RALEIGH ROAD, SUITE 300 CHAPEL HILL, NC 27517. Firm's EIN: 56-1304727. Phone no.: (919) 942-8700.

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions [X] Yes [] No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III [X]

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission: WAKE COUNTY SMART START WORKS TO ENSURE THAT YOUNG CHILDREN, BIRTH TO FIVE ARE PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE. THE ORGANIZATION WORKS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO ASSESS LOCAL NEEDS, FUNDS LOCAL PROGRAMS, ENSURES ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEVERAGES RESOURCES TO SUPPORT

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? [] Yes [X] No If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 14,715,527. including grants of \$ 13,701,367.) (Revenue \$) NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

THE NC PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES TO ENHANCE SCHOOL READINESS FOR ELIGIBLE FOUR-YEAR-OLDS. CHILDREN IN PRE-K ATTEND A FULL SCHOOL DAY IN A SCHOOL-YEAR PROGRAM. CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ARE SERVED IN LICENSED CLASSROOMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE CHILD CARE FACILITIES, OR HEAD START PROGRAMS. FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR, 1,616 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM WAS SUPPORTED BY A STATE GRANT AND A LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ 4,458,209. including grants of \$ 3,262,048.) (Revenue \$) FAMILY SUPPORT/HEALTH AND SAFETY

WAKE COUNTY SMART START FUNDS FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IN WAKE COUNTY. FAMILY SUPPORT INCLUDES PARENTING SKILLS TRAINING, ONGOING PARENT EDUCATION, FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVES, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FAMILY NAVIGATION. HEALTH AND SAFETY INCLUDES TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COUNSELING, NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES, AND REFERRALS TO ADDRESS HEALTHCARE, MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, AND PREVENTATIVE SERVICES. APPROXIMATELY 1,026 CHILDREN DIRECTLY BENEFITED FROM AT LEAST ONE WAKE COUNTY SMART START FAMILY SUPPORT OR HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITY. PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED BY STATE AND PRIVATE GRANTS.

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ 2,974,733. including grants of \$ 2,491,921.) (Revenue \$) WAKE THREESCHOOL

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES EARLY EDUCATION TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN A PLAY-BASED, DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT, LIKE THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NC PRE-K PROGRAM. RESEARCH SHOWS WHEN THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR LEARNING EARLY, THEY LEARN BETTER, GAIN STRONGER SKILLS, AND ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN. THIS PROGRAM LEVERAGES THE RAPID BRAIN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THAT HAPPENS AT AGE THREE. THIS "FRAMEWORK" IS WHAT ALL FUTURE LEARNING IS BUILT UPON. CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM ARE SERVED IN LICENSED PRIVATE CHILD CARE FACILITIES. FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR, 282 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A

4d Other program services (Describe on Schedule O.) (Expenses \$ 1,411,419. including grants of \$ 108,603.) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses 23,559,888.

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

	Yes	No
1 Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> ? See instructions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Rev. Proc. 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8 Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10 Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in donor-restricted endowments or in quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11 If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X, as applicable.		
a Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization report an amount for investments - other securities in Part X, line 12, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c Did the organization report an amount for investments - program related in Part X, line 13, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15, that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12a Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13 Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14a Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
15 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
16 Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
17 Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I.</i> See instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
19 Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20a Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Yes/No columns. Rows 22-38 cover various IRS requirements regarding grants, compensation, bond issues, and controlled entities.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Yes/No columns. Rows 1a-1c cover Form 1096 reporting and backup withholding rules.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

Table with columns for question number, description, and Yes/No checkboxes. Includes questions 2a through 17 regarding employee reporting, tax shelter transactions, foreign accounts, and charitable contributions.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure. For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to line 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes on Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI [X]

Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year (21); 1b Enter the number of voting members included on line 1a, above, who are independent (20); 2 Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee? (X); 3 Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors, trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person? (X); 4 Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed? (X); 5 Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets? (X); 6 Did the organization have members or stockholders? (X); 7a Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body? (X); 7b Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body? (X); 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following: a The governing body? (X); b Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body? (X); 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses on Schedule O (X).

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates? (X); 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?; 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form? (X); 11b Describe on Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.; 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13 (X); 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts? (X); 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe on Schedule O how this was done (X); 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy? (X); 14 Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy? (X); 15 Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision? a The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official (X); b Other officers or key employees of the organization (X); If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process on Schedule O. See instructions.; 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year? (X); 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed NC
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (1024 or 1024-A, if applicable), 990, and 990-T (section 501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. [X] Own website [X] Another's website [X] Upon request [] Other (explain on Schedule O)
19 Describe on Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records
GAYLE E. HEADEN - 919-851-9550
4901 WATERS EDGE DRIVE, 101, RALEIGH, NC 27606

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

• List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

• List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See the instructions for definition of "key employee."

• List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee, or key employee) who received reportable compensation (box 5 of Form W-2, box 6 of Form 1099-MISC, and/or box 1 of Form 1099-NEC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

• List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, and highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

• List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

See the instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)					(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee			
(1) GAYLE HEADON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	40.00	X		X			172,449.	0.	9,167.
(2) GARY CARR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	40.00	X		X			149,291.	0.	16,552.
(3) CAROL C ORJI DIRECTOR OF ECI	40.00				X		105,171.	0.	14,435.
(5) KATHERINE WILLIAMS CHAIR	1.00	X		X			0.	0.	0.
(6) NIKIA COATES VICE CHAIR	1.00	X		X			0.	0.	0.
(7) MATTHEW ELLINWOOD SECRETARY	1.00	X		X			0.	0.	0.
(8) MATTHEW GLOVA TREASURER	1.00	X		X			0.	0.	0.
(9) CHRISTINE ALVARADO DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(10) HEATHER DRENNAN DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(11) SUSAN EVANS DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(12) SHERRY HEUSER DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(13) MICKEY HOLT DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(14) LESLIE ANN JACKSON DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(15) TONYA KANGKOLO DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(16) CATHERINE LASSITER DIRECTOR	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(17) AMELIA MUSE DIRECTOR FR JULY 2023	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.
(18) RONETTA PEARSALL DIRECTOR FR JULY 2023	1.00	X					0.	0.	0.

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC/1099-NEC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(19) ANTONIA PEDROZA DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(20) COLLEEN ROACHE DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(21) CHERYL STALLINGS DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(22) TONYA VENABLE DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(23) JOE WHITE DIRECTOR	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
(24) STACEY WILSON-NORMAN DIRECTOR FR JULY 2023	1.00	X						0.	0.	0.
1b Subtotal								426,911.	0.	40,154.
c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A								0.	0.	0.
d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)								426,911.	0.	40,154.

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization 3

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director, trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		X
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	X	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
NONE		

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization 0

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
			Total revenue	Related or exempt function revenue	Unrelated business revenue	Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1 a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e	24,563,102.			
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	310,766.			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g \$				
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		24,873,868.			
	Program Service Revenue	2 a		Business Code			
b							
c							
d							
e							
f		All other program service revenue					
g		Total. Add lines 2a-2f					
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		195,894.		195,894.	
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	6 a	Gross rents	6a	(i) Real			
				(ii) Personal			
	b	Less: rental expenses	6b				
	c	Rental income or (loss)	6c				
	d	Net rental income or (loss)					
	7 a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	7a	(i) Securities			
				(ii) Other			
	b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	7b				
	c	Gain or (loss)	7c				
d	Net gain or (loss)						
8 a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	8a					
b	Less: direct expenses	8b					
c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events						
9 a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	9a					
b	Less: direct expenses	9b					
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10 a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	10a					
b	Less: cost of goods sold	10b					
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue	11 a	SALES TAX REFUNDS	Business Code	900099	32,565.	32,565.	
	b						
	c						
	d	All other revenue					
	e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		32,565.			
12	Total revenue. See instructions		25,102,327.	0.	0.	228,459.	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	19,563,939.	19,563,939.		
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	367,570.	265,225.	99,044.	3,301.
6 Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	2,542,514.	1,822,715.	696,234.	23,565.
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	267,579.	202,413.	63,909.	1,257.
9 Other employee benefits	381,655.	307,377.	71,696.	2,582.
10 Payroll taxes	219,848.	157,876.	59,935.	2,037.
11 Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a Management				
b Legal	475.		475.	
c Accounting	7,754.		7,754.	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 11g expenses on Sch O.)	844,010.	695,295.	145,439.	3,276.
12 Advertising and promotion	6,599.	2,658.	3,342.	599.
13 Office expenses	81,604.	55,698.	25,010.	896.
14 Information technology	188,131.	119,926.	63,926.	4,279.
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy	230,942.	157,489.	62,164.	11,289.
17 Travel	45,705.	40,976.	4,729.	
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	76,698.	61,989.	14,360.	349.
20 Interest				
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization				
23 Insurance	22,312.	2,293.	20,019.	
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a SMALL EQUIP UNDER \$500	89,968.	85,574.	4,304.	90.
b OTHER REFUND	34,829.		34,829.	
c SALES TAX EXPENSE	30,048.	0.	30,048.	0.
d DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	15,745.	7,743.	8,002.	0.
e All other expenses	10,702.	10,702.		
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	25,028,627.	23,559,888.	1,415,219.	53,520.
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part X

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash - non-interest-bearing	149,571.	1	238,391.
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	4,043,344.	2	3,680,539.
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	111,654.	4	63,619.
	5 Loans and other receivables from any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges		9	
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b		10c
	11 Investments - publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		15	
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33)		4,304,569.	16	3,982,549.
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,268.	17	1,336.
	18 Grants payable	795,815.	18	400,027.
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D		25	
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25		797,083.	26
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	27 Net assets without donor restrictions	2,004,560.	27	2,174,146.
	28 Net assets with donor restrictions	1,502,926.	28	1,407,040.
	Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here and complete lines 29 through 33. <input type="checkbox"/>			
	29 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		29	
	30 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		30	
	31 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		31	
32 Total net assets or fund balances	3,507,486.	32	3,581,186.	
33 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	4,304,569.	33	3,982,549.	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	25,102,327.
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	25,028,627.
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	73,700.
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	4	3,507,486.
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain on Schedule O)	9	0.
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (B))	10	3,581,186.

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

	Yes	No
1 Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain on Schedule O.		
2a Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		X
b Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If "Yes," check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	X	
c If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain on Schedule O.		X
3a As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F?	X	
b If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why on Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits	X	

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization **WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.** Employer identification number **56-1949415**

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status. (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2 A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E (Form 990).)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state: _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II.)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 8 A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II.)
- 9 An agricultural research organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land-grant college of agriculture (see instructions). Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university: _____
- 10 An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions, subject to certain exceptions; and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III.)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 12 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2).** See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box on lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
 - a **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
 - b **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
 - c **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
 - d **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
 - e Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
 - f Enter the number of supported organizations
- g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
Total						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	18397891.	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	105810629
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	18397891.	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	105810629
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						105810629

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2019	(b) 2020	(c) 2021	(d) 2022	(e) 2023	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	18397891.	20078107.	19627355.	22833408.	24873868.	105810629
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources	13,860.	3,575.	3,767.	78,125.	195,895.	295,222.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.)	16,975.	16,522.	27,126.	25,161.	32,565.	118,349.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						106224200
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	49,525.
13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2023 (line 6, column (f), divided by line 11, column (f))	14	99.61	%
15 Public support percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	99.79	%
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2023. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b 33 1/3% support test - 2022. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			<input type="checkbox"/>
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2023. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			<input type="checkbox"/>
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2022. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the facts-and-circumstances test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions			<input type="checkbox"/>

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2019, (b) 2020, (c) 2021, (d) 2022, (e) 2023, (f) Total. Rows include: 1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received; 2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed; 3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business; 4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit; 5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit; 6 Total; 7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons; 7b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons; 8 Public support.

Section B. Total Support

Table with 7 columns: (a) 2019, (b) 2020, (c) 2021, (d) 2022, (e) 2023, (f) Total. Rows include: 9 Amounts from line 6; 10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties, and income from similar sources; 10b Unrelated business taxable income; 11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included on line 10b; 12 Other income; 13 Total support.

14 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

Table with 2 columns: Description, Percentage. Row 15: Public support percentage for 2023 (line 8, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) 15 %; Row 16: Public support percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part III, line 15 16 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

Table with 2 columns: Description, Percentage. Row 17: Investment income percentage for 2023 (line 10c, column (f), divided by line 13, column (f)) 17 %; Row 18: Investment income percentage from 2022 Schedule A, Part III, line 17 18 %

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2023. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2022. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Part IV Supporting Organizations

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

Section A. All Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
2 Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
3a Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.</i>		
b Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
c Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
4a Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes," and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.</i>		
b Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
c Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
5a Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
b Type I or Type II only. Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
c Substitutions only. Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
6 Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
7 Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (as defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
8 Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described on line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990).</i>		
9a Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
b Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined on line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
c Did a disqualified person (as defined on line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
10a Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer line 10b below.</i>		
b Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings.)</i>		

Part IV Supporting Organizations (continued)

	Yes	No
11 Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?		
a A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described on lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
b A family member of a person described on line 11a above?		
c A 35% controlled entity of a person described on line 11a or 11b above? <i>If "Yes" to line 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
11a		
11b		
11c		

Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the governing body, members of the governing body, officers acting in their official capacity, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees at all times during the tax year? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove officers, directors, or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.</i>		
2 Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization.</i>		
1		
2		

Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).</i>		
1		

Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations

	Yes	No
1 Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?		
2 Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? <i>If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).</i>		
3 By reason of the relationship described on line 2, above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.</i>		
1		
2		
3		

Section E. Type III Functionally Integrated Supporting Organizations

1 Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (see instructions).			
a <input type="checkbox"/> The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete line 2 below.			
b <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete line 3 below.			
c <input type="checkbox"/> The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in Part VI how you supported a governmental entity (see instructions).			
2 Activities Test. Answer lines 2a and 2b below.			
a Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? <i>If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.</i>			
b Did the activities described on line 2a, above, constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.</i>			
3 Parent of Supported Organizations. Answer lines 3a and 3b below.			
a Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? <i>If "Yes" or "No" provide details in Part VI.</i>			
b Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs, and activities of each of its supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role played by the organization in this regard.</i>			
2a			
2b			
3a			
3b			

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

1 Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (*explain in Part VI*). See instructions.
All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

Section A - Adjusted Net Income		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Net short-term capital gain	1	
2	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	2	
3	Other gross income (see instructions)	3	
4	Add lines 1 through 3.	4	
5	Depreciation and depletion	5	
6	Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	6	
7	Other expenses (see instructions)	7	
8	Adjusted Net Income (subtract lines 5, 6, and 7 from line 4)	8	

Section B - Minimum Asset Amount		(A) Prior Year	(B) Current Year (optional)
1	Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):		
a	Average monthly value of securities	1a	
b	Average monthly cash balances	1b	
c	Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	1c	
d	Total (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	1d	
e	Discount claimed for blockage or other factors (<i>explain in detail in Part VI</i>):		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt-use assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.	3	
4	Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	4	
5	Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	5	
6	Multiply line 5 by 0.035.	6	
7	Recoveries of prior-year distributions	7	
8	Minimum Asset Amount (add line 7 to line 6)	8	

Section C - Distributable Amount		(A) Prior Year	Current Year
1	Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, column A)	1	
2	Enter 0.85 of line 1.	2	
3	Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, column A)	3	
4	Enter greater of line 2 or line 3.	4	
5	Income tax imposed in prior year	5	
6	Distributable Amount. Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions).	6	
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions).		

Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations (continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
1	Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	1
2	Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	2
3	Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	3
4	Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	4
5	Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - provide details in Part VI)	5
6	Other distributions (describe in Part VI). See instructions.	6
7	Total annual distributions. Add lines 1 through 6.	7
8	Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in Part VI). See instructions.	8
9	Distributable amount for 2023 from Section C, line 6	9
10	Line 8 amount divided by line 9 amount	10

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2023	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2023
1	Distributable amount for 2023 from Section C, line 6		
2	Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2023 (reasonable cause required - explain in Part VI). See instructions.		
3	Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2023		
a	From 2018		
b	From 2019		
c	From 2020		
d	From 2021		
e	From 2022		
f	Total of lines 3a through 3e		
g	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
h	Applied to 2023 distributable amount		
i	Carryover from 2018 not applied (see instructions)		
j	Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.		
4	Distributions for 2023 from Section D, line 7: \$		
a	Applied to underdistributions of prior years		
b	Applied to 2023 distributable amount		
c	Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.		
5	Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2023, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
6	Remaining underdistributions for 2023. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. For result greater than zero, explain in Part VI. See instructions.		
7	Excess distributions carryover to 2024. Add lines 3j and 4c.		
8	Breakdown of line 7:		
a	Excess from 2019		
b	Excess from 2020		
c	Excess from 2021		
d	Excess from 2022		
e	Excess from 2023		

Part VI

Supplemental Information. Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V, Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE A, PART II, LINE 10, EXPLANATION FOR OTHER INCOME:

SALES TAX REFUND

2019 AMOUNT: \$ 16,975.

2020 AMOUNT: \$ 16,522.

2021 AMOUNT: \$ 27,126.

2022 AMOUNT: \$ 25,161.

2023 AMOUNT: \$ 32,565.

Schedule B
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Schedule of Contributors

Attach to Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Name of the organization WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.	Employer identification number 56-1949415
--	---

Organization type (check one):

Filers of:

Section:

Form 990 or 990-EZ

501(c)(3) (enter number) organization

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation

527 political organization

Form 990-PF

501(c)(3) exempt private foundation

4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation

501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.

Note: Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

General Rule

For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

Special Rules

For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33 1/3% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of (1) \$5,000; or (2) 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h; or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I (entering "N/A" in column (b) instead of the contributor name and address), II, and III.

For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year \$ _____

Caution: An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990-PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990).

Name of organization

Employer identification number

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

56-1949415

Part I Contributors (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
1		\$ 9,996,005.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
2		\$ 10,017,473.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
3		\$ 5,173,828.	Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash <input type="checkbox"/> (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization

Employer identification number

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

56-1949415

Part II **Noncash Property** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions.)	(d) Date received
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____
	_____ _____ _____	\$ _____	_____

Name of organization

Employer identification number

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

56-1949415

Part III

Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this info. once.) \$ _____
 Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held

(e) Transfer of gift	
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held

(e) Transfer of gift	
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held

(e) Transfer of gift	
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held

(e) Transfer of gift	
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP + 4	Relationship of transferor to transferee

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990)

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under Section 501(c) and Section 527

Complete if the organization is described below. Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then:

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and B. Do not complete Part I-C.
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations: Complete Parts I-A and C below. Do not complete Part I-B.
- Section 527 organizations: Complete Part I-A only.

If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then:

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-A. Do not complete Part II-B.
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)): Complete Part II-B. Do not complete Part II-A.

If the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (see separate instructions), then:

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations: Complete Part III.

Name of organization WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.	Employer identification number 56-1949415
--	---

Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV.
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures \$ _____
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities _____

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 \$ _____
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? Yes No
- 4a Was a correction made? Yes No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV.

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities \$ _____
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures. Add lines 1 and 2. Enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b \$ _____
- 4 Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year? Yes No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses, and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments. For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds. Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC). If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV.

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization. If none, enter -0-.

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures).
- B** Check if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply.

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals												
1a	Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grassroots lobbying)	5,000.													
b	Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)	5,000.													
c	Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)	23,554,888.													
d	Other exempt purpose expenditures	23,559,888.													
e	Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)	1,000,000.													
f	Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the amount from the following table in both columns.														
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:</th> <th style="width: 50%;">The lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>not over \$500,000,</td> <td>20% of the amount on line 1e.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000,</td> <td>\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000,</td> <td>\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000,</td> <td>\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>over \$17,000,000,</td> <td>\$1,000,000.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:	not over \$500,000,	20% of the amount on line 1e.	over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000,	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.	over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000,	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.	over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000,	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.	over \$17,000,000,	\$1,000,000.		
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is:	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:														
not over \$500,000,	20% of the amount on line 1e.														
over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000,	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000.														
over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000,	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000.														
over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000,	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000.														
over \$17,000,000,	\$1,000,000.														
g	Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)	250,000.													
h	Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
i	Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-	0.													
j	If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No												

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2020	(b) 2021	(c) 2022	(d) 2023	(e) Total	
2a	Lobbying nontaxable amount	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	1,000,000.	4,000,000.
b	Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					6,000,000.
c	Total lobbying expenditures	5,000.	2,500.	2,500.	5,000.	15,000.
d	Grassroots nontaxable amount	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	250,000.	1,000,000.
e	Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					1,500,000.
f	Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and has NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

Table with 3 columns: (a) Yes, (a) No, (b) Amount. Rows include questions about lobbying activities like volunteers, staff, media, mailings, etc.

Part III-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6).

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include questions about dues, lobbying expenditures, and carryover.

Part III-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) and if either (a) BOTH Part III-A, lines 1 and 2, are answered "No" OR (b) Part III-A, line 3, is answered "Yes."

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include questions about dues, section 162(e) expenditures, and carryover.

Part IV Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1; Part I-B, line 4; Part I-C, line 5; Part II-A (affiliated group list); Part II-A, lines 1 and 2 (see instructions); and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Blank lines for providing supplemental information.

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include: 1 Total number at end of year, 2 Aggregate value of contributions to (during year), 3 Aggregate value of grants from (during year), 4 Aggregate value at end of year, 5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?, 6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Held at the End of the Tax Year. Rows include: 1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply), 2 Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year, 3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year, 4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located, 5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?, 6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year, 7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year, 8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2d above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?, 9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include: 1a If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide in Part XIII the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items. 1b If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items. (i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1. (ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X. 2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under FASB ASC 958 relating to these items: a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1. b Assets included in Form 990, Part X.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3 Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that make significant use of its collection items (check all that apply).
- a Public exhibition
 - b Scholarly research
 - c Preservation for future generations
 - d Loan or exchange program
 - e Other _____
- 4 Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5 During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian, or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? Yes No
- b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a Board designated or quasi-endowment _____ %
 - b Permanent endowment _____ %
 - c Term endowment _____ %
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.
- 3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------|----|
| (i) Unrelated organizations? | 3a(i) | |
| (ii) Related organizations? | 3a(ii) | |
| b If "Yes" on line 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b | |
- 4 Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other				

Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 10c, column (B)) 0.

Part VII Investments - Other Securities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely held equity interests		
(3) Other		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 12, col. (B))		

Part VIII Investments - Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Col. (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 13, col. (B))		

Part IX Other Assets

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 15, col. (B))	

Part X Other Liabilities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, line 25, col. (B))	

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FASB ASC 740. Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ...

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	25,102,327.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
	a Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
	b Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
	c Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
	d Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
	e Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	25,102,327.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:			
	a Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
	b Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
	c Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0.
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	25,102,327.

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	25,028,627.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
	a Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
	b Prior year adjustments	2b		
	c Other losses	2c		
	d Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
	e Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	25,028,627.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
	a Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
	b Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
	c Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0.
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	25,028,627.

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

PART X, LINE 2:

WAKE COUNTY SMART START IS EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF INCOME TAXES UNDER THE PROVISION OF SECTION 501(C)3 OF THE IRC EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT OF TAXES ON ANY UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME. FASB ASC 740 PROVIDES GUIDANCE FOR HOW UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, MEASURED, PRESENTED AND DISCLOSED IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. FASB ASC 740 REQUIRES THE EVALUATION OF TAX POSITIONS TAKEN OR EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE TAX POSITIONS ARE "MORE-LIKELY-THAN-NOT" TO BE SUSTAINED BY THE APPLICABLE TAX AUTHORITY. WAKE COUNTY SMART START DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY UNRECOGNIZED TAX BENEFITS OR COSTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024.

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the United States**
Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21 or 22.

Attach to Form 990.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

1 Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? Yes No

2 Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER, INC. - 201 CLARENDON CRESCENT - RALEIGH, NC 27610	20-1187875		447,886.	2,127,000		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
ABC LAND, INC. II 55 LILES DEAN ROAD WENDELL, NC 27591	56-1239648		944,863.	12,023,000		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
ACADEMICALLY BASED CHILD 916-107 ROCK QUARRY ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-2056643		765,692.	5,997,000		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
BOOK HARVEST 2501 UNIVERSITY DR. DURHAM, NC 27707	45-2610533	501(C)3	132,341.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
BRIGHT BEGINNINGS OF CARY, INC. 123 BRIGHT BEGINNINGS WAY CARY, NC 27519	56-2134126		1,217,951.	13,820,000		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, INC. - 715 NAZARETH STREET - RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-0529943	501(C)3	174,439.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table

15.

3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table

22.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule I (Form 990) 2023

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
CHILDCARE NETWORK, INC. 6053 VETERANS PARKWAY BLDG 300 COLUMBUS, GA 31909	63-0986576		2,968,102.	32,638.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
CREATIVE LEARNING ENTERPRISE 4309 TEN TEN ROAD APEX, NC 27539	46-5078995		339,657.	4,327.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK
CREATIVE SCHOOLS, INC. 4915 WATERS EDGE DR. RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-1469260		1,019,739.	13,521.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
EARLY PRESCHOOL & LEARNING CENTER LLC - 2614 FAIRWAY DRIVE - RALEIGH, NC 27603	56-2222511		545,373.	4,649.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER - SOUTH ATLANTIC - 3825 BARRETT DR., STE 104 - RALEIGH, NC 27609	20-1257901	501(C)3	384,763.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
FRANKIE LEMMON SCHOOL & DEVELOPMENT CENTER - 3311 CARL SANDBURG CT. - RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-0931467	501(C)3	257,793.	13,951.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
GODDARD (AAN ENTERPRISES) HOLLY SPRINGS - 801 EARP ST. - HOLLY SPRINGS, NC 27540	20-5349088		0.	20,592.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
HAPPY PLACE TO BEE 801 W GARNER ROAD GARNER, NC 27529	87-1970077		0.	14,263.COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
IGLESIA FIESTA CRISTIANA 100 S. HUGHES ST. APEX, NC 27502	56-1158859	501(C)3	101,651.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)							
(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
KIDS FIRST ACADEMY, INC. 3308 POOLE RD. RALEIGH, NC 27610	27-1294274		565,313.	6,655. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
KINDERCARE LEARNING CENTER 650 NE HOLLADAY ST., SUITE 1400 PORTLAND, OR 97232	47-4478313		454,166.	23,158. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
LITTLE BELIEVERS ACADEMY II 309 HOLMAN ST. GARNER, NC 27529	47-1308220		260,637.	4,291. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THREESCHOOL
LITTLE DESTINY LITERACY & DISCOVERY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER - 3329 FORESTVILLE RD. - RALEIGH, NC 27616-8700	46-3319443		274,006.	475. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK
LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET CHILD CARE CENTER, INC. - 2906 BRENTWOOD RD. - RALEIGH, NC 27604	20-8612696		250,852.	8,184. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK
LITTLE MAKERS ACADEMY 2801 S. WILMINGTON #103 RALEIGH, NC 27603	81-3139046		0.	10,000. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
LITTLE SPROUTS ACADEMY 535 W. GANNON AVE. ZEBULON, NC 27597	92-3116567		0.	9,998. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT
LUCY DANIELS CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD - 9003 WESTON PARKWAY - CARY, NC 27513	58-1863104	501(C)3	633,163.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
METHOD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER 900 TRAILWOOD DRIVE RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-0939512	501(C)3	219,731.	710. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II.)

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
PASSAGE HOME PO BOX 28165 RALEIGH, NC 27611	56-1765360	501(C)3	55,930.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
PRESTON CHILDREN'S ACADEMY 551 JAMES JACKSON AVENUE CARY, NC 27513	20-3690113		230,555.	0.			NC PREK
PRIMARY BEGINNINGS CHILD DEVELOPMENT - 2100 NORTH HILLS DRIVE - RALEIGH, NC 27612	56-2133291		793,311.	14,088. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK
SAFECHILD, INC. 864 W. MORGAN STREET RALEIGH, NC 27603	56-1817816	501(C)3	119,360.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
SHAW UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - 317 E. LENOIR STREET - RALEIGH, NC 27601	56-0530235	501(C)3	252,895.	28,835. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK
SMART START ADVOCATES PO BOX 10714 RALEIGH, NC 27605	27-4873512	501(C)3	5,000.	0.			DONATION FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT
STEP UP MINISTRY 1701 OBERLIN RD. RALEIGH, NC 27608	56-1655255		50,000.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
TELAMON CORPORATION 5560 MUNFORD ROAD, SUITE 201 RALEIGH, NC 27612	56-1022483	501(C)3	917,427.	0.			NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
THE HAPPY FACE PRESCHOOL 5010 FORT SUMTER ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27606	56-1836772		637,221.	6,569. COST		EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL

Schedule I (Form 990)

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments (Schedule I (Form 990), Part II).

(a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
TRIANGLE AREA PARENTING SUPPORT PO BOX 1454 APEX, NC 27502	81-3973425	501(C)3	141,805.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
WAKE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PO BOX 46833 RALEIGH, NC 27620	56-6000347	GOVT	690,111.	0.			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 3600 WAKE FOREST ROAD RALEIGH, NC 27609	56-1137759	GOVT	2,831,115.	0.			NC PREK/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
WANDA'S LITTLE HANDS EDUCATIONAL CENTER - 3400 POOLE ROAD - RALEIGH, NC 27610	56-1999520		502,629.	7,650.	COST	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	NC PREK, WAKE THRESCHOOL
VARIOUS CHILD CARE CENTERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS			30,515.	89,426.	COST	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT	VARIOUS PROGRAMS

Part III Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Individuals. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Part III can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of noncash assistance

Part IV Supplemental Information. Provide the information required in Part I, line 2; Part III, column (b); and any other additional information.

PART I, LINE 2:

ALL FUNDED ACTIVITIES ARE MONITORED TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS WHICH INCLUDE PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS. PROGRAM SITES ARE VISITED TO DOCUMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY AND COMPLIANCE, DELIVERY OF SERVICE, OUTPUTS, AND OUTCOMES. TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO ACHIEVE GOALS.

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No. 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
 Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
 Attach to Form 990.
 Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No
1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.		
<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel		
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account		
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use		
<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence		
<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees		
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (such as maid, chauffeur, chef)		
b If any of the boxes on line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain		
2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, and officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on line 1a?		
3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee		
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant		
<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract		
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study		
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee		
4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:		
a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?		X
b Participate in or receive payment from a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?		X
c Participate in or receive payment from an equity-based compensation arrangement?		X
If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.		
Only section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.		
5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:		
a The organization?		X
b Any related organization?		X
If "Yes" on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.		
6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:		
a The organization?		X
b Any related organization?		X
If "Yes" on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.		
7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described on lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III		X
8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III		X
9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?		

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule J (Form 990) 2023

SCHEDULE L
(Form 990)

Transactions With Interested Persons

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c; or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a or 40b.

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization **WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.** Employer identification number **56-1949415**

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3), section 501(c)(4), and section 501(c)(29) organizations only)

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b; or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b.

1	(a) Name of disqualified person	(b) Relationship between disqualified person and organization	(c) Description of transaction	(d) Corrected?	
				Yes	No
(1)					
(2)					
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					

2 Enter the amount of tax incurred by the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 \$ _____

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization \$ _____

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a, or Form 990, Part IV, line 26; or if the organization reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 5, 6, or 22.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship with organization	(c) Purpose of loan	(d) Loan to or from the organization?		(e) Original principal amount	(f) Balance due	(g) In default?		(h) Approved by board or committee?		(i) Written agreement?	
			To	From			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
			(1)									
(2)												
(3)												
(4)												
(5)												
(6)												
(7)												
(8)												
(9)												
(10)												
Total						\$						

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefiting Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of assistance	(d) Type of assistance	(e) Purpose of assistance
(1)				
(2)				
(3)				
(4)				
(5)				
(6)				
(7)				
(8)				
(9)				
(10)				

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule L (Form 990) 2023

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

(a) Name of interested person	(b) Relationship between interested person and the organization	(c) Amount of transaction	(d) Description of transaction	(e) Sharing of organization's revenues?	
				Yes	No
(1) A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER	FORMER BOARD MEMBER	447,186.	KIM SHAW, F		X
(2) LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET	BOARD MEMBER	259,036.	RONETTA PEA		X
(3)					
(4)					
(5)					
(6)					
(7)					
(8)					
(9)					
(10)					

Part V Supplemental Information

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule L. See instructions.

SCH L, PART IV, BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING INTERESTED PERSONS:

(A) NAME OF PERSON: A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER

(B) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERESTED PERSON AND ORGANIZATION:

FORMER BOARD MEMBER

(C) AMOUNT OF TRANSACTION \$ 447,186.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION: KIM SHAW, FORMER BOARD MEMBER, OWNS A SAFE PLACE CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER WHICH CONTRACTS WITH WAKE COUNTY SMART START AS A NC PREK PROVIDER.

(E) SHARING OF ORGANIZATION REVENUES? = NO

(A) NAME OF PERSON: LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET

(B) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERESTED PERSON AND ORGANIZATION:

BOARD MEMBER

(C) AMOUNT OF TRANSACTION \$ 259,036.

(D) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION: RONETTA PEARSALL, BOARD MEMBER, OWNS LITTLE HANDS 'N' FEET WHICH CONTRACTS WITH WAKE COUNTY SMART START AS A NC PREK PROVIDER.

(E) SHARING OF ORGANIZATION REVENUES? = NO

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2023

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number
56-1949415

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4C, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4D, OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES:

OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES:

CHILD CARE EDUCATION AND QUALITY

IN WAKE COUNTY, 32 PERCENT OF THE BIRTH TO FIVE POPULATION ATTENDED
REGULATED CHILD CARE. BECAUSE A CHILD'S EXPERIENCES IN THE FIRST FIVE
YEARS ARE OF SUCH A CRITICAL NATURE, WAKE COUNTY SMART START WORKS TO
ENSURE THAT QUALITY CHILD CARE IS BOTH ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE TO
FAMILIES WHO NEED IT. WAKE COUNTY SMART START INVESTS IN COMMUNITY
PARTNERS WHO PROVIDE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS IN REGULATED CHILDCARE, WORK WITH
LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE QUALITY, AND
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS TO INCREASE THEIR
SKILLS. ADDITIONAL AREAS OF SUPPORT INCLUDE TRAINING, CURRICULUM
ENHANCEMENTS AND MENTORING PROGRAMS. FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024
APPROXIMATELY 32 CHILD CARE FACILITIES WERE SERVED. PROGRAMS ARE
SUPPORTED BY A STATE GRANT AND PROGRAM SERVICE FEES.

PROGRAM COORDINATION AND EVALUATION

WORK WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO ACHIEVE GOALS ARTICULATED IN THE
STRATEGIC PLAN; WORK WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP EVALUATION PLANS AND

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule O (Form 990) 2023

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

TRACK IMPLEMENTATION; ASSESS PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS, PARTICIPATE IN STRATEGIC PLANNING; GATHER AND ANALYZE RELEVANT DATA; COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS; MANAGE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS. THE PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY A STATE GRANT.

EXPENSES \$ 1,411,419. INCLUDING GRANTS OF \$ 108,603. REVENUE \$ 0.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B:

THE 990 IS COMPLETED BY A CPA FIRM. IT IS THEN REVIEWED BY THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE, AFTER REVIEW IT IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE FULL BOARD AND QUESTIONS ARE DIRECTED TO THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE. AFTER THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETED, THE RETURN IS SIGNED BY A BOARD OFFICER.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C:

THE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST POLICY REQUIRES BOARD MEMBERS TO ANNUALLY COMPLETE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM. THESE FORMS ARE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD FINANCE COMMITTEE. A SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEMBERS WITH CONFLICTS IS TAKEN TO THE FULL BOARD FOR ACTION. BOARD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON ITEMS WHICH THEY HAVE A CONFLICT. BOARD MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO UPDATE THEIR CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FOR ANY CHANGES DURING THE YEAR.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15:

THE COMPENSATION AND REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS CONDUCTED BY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. COMPENSATION IS DETERMINED USING INDEPENDENT COMPARABLE DATA. THE ORGANIZATION HAS A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE LAST COMPENSATION REVIEW PERFORMED BY AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT WAS DONE IN 2022. THE ORGANIZATION'S SALARY

Name of the organization

WAKE COUNTY SMART START, INC.

Employer identification number

56-1949415

STRUCTURE IS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUALLY AND ADJUSTED BASED ON MARKET DATA. THE NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN DEVELOPED A MANDATORY SALARY SCHEDULE FOR SMART START EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 AS REQUIRED BY STATE LEGISLATION. THE WAKE COUNTY SMART START EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALARY SCHEDULE.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19:

THE ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY, AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN A PUBLIC FILE AT THE ORGANIZATION'S OFFICE. DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AND ON THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE, WWW.WAKESMARTSTART.ORG.