

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF
SMART START PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMER STIPE, BOARD CHAIR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SONIA GIRONDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.

Index

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	3
Financial Statements	
Exhibits	
A Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis	6
B Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis	7
Notes to Financial Statements	8
Supplementary Information	
1 Schedule of Contract and Grant Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis	21
2 Schedule of State Level Service Provider Contracts (Unaudited)	22
3 Schedule of Federal and State Awards - Modified Cash Basis	23
4 Schedule of Property and Equipment - Modified Cash Basis	24
5 Schedule of Qualifying Match (Non-GAAP) (Unaudited)	25
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	26

Independent Auditor's Report

To Board Members of
Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc., which comprise the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis of the Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc. as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS") and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc., and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplementary information in Schedule 2 on page 22 and Schedule 5 on page 25 is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor, and is not a required part of the financial statements. In accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion or provide any assurance on Schedules 2 and 5.

The accompanying supplementary information in Schedules 1, 3, and 4 on pages 21, 23, and 24, respectively, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 22, 2025, on our consideration of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charlotte, North Carolina
October 22, 2025

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Exhibit A

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total Funds
Receipts:			
State Awards and Contracts	\$ 1,234,904	\$ 560,072	\$ 1,794,976
Federal Awards	28,000	-	28,000
Private Contributions	469,542	62,629	532,171
Special Fundraising Events	11,751	-	11,751
Interest and Investment Earnings	6,341	-	6,341
Sales Tax Refunds	4,014	-	4,014
Total Receipts	1,754,552	622,701	2,377,253
Net Assets Released from Restrictions:			
Satisfaction of Program Restrictions	137,974	(137,974)	-
	1,892,526	484,727	2,377,253
Expenditures:			
Programs:			
Child Care and Education Affordability	506,116	-	506,116
Child Care and Education Quality	251,016	-	251,016
Family Support	252,326	-	252,326
Health and Safety	101,907	-	101,907
Hurricane Relief	486,170	-	486,170
Support:			
Fundraising	6,494	-	6,494
Management and General	133,435	-	133,435
Program Planning, Coordination and Evaluation	118,618	-	118,618
Other:			
Sales Tax Paid	3,782	-	3,782
Total Expenditures	1,859,864	-	1,859,864
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Expenditures	32,662	484,727	517,389
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	156,585	236,114	392,699
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 189,247	\$ 720,841	\$ 910,088
Net Assets Consisted of:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 242,537	\$ 720,841	\$ 963,378
Less: Due to State	53,290	-	53,290
Total Net Assets	\$ 189,247	\$ 720,841	\$ 910,088

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of the Financial Statements.

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Exhibit B

	Total	Personnel	Contracted Services	Supplies and Materials	Other Operating Expenditures	Fixed Charges and Other Expenditures	Property and Equipment Outlay	Services/ Contracts/ Grants
Smart Start Funds:								
Programs:								
Child Care and Education Affordability	\$ 504,997	\$ 27,673	\$ 326	\$ -	\$ 2,363	\$ 2,097	\$ -	\$ 472,538
Child Care and Education Quality	200,409	40,435	-	202	6,172	4,780	-	148,820
Family Support	103,749	73,167	-	665	5,685	4,125	-	20,107
Health and Safety	45,301	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,301
	<u>854,456</u>	<u>141,275</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>867</u>	<u>14,220</u>	<u>11,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>686,766</u>
Support:								
Fundraising	4,000	3,284	-	-	338	378	-	-
Management and General	121,322	94,774	4,330	3,306	10,213	8,534	165	-
Program Planning, Coordination and Evaluation	118,618	99,973	5,000	-	8,080	5,565	-	-
	<u>243,940</u>	<u>198,031</u>	<u>9,330</u>	<u>3,306</u>	<u>18,631</u>	<u>14,477</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Smart Start Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,098,396</u>	<u>\$ 339,306</u>	<u>\$ 9,656</u>	<u>\$ 4,173</u>	<u>\$ 32,851</u>	<u>\$ 25,479</u>	<u>\$ 165</u>	<u>\$ 686,766</u>
Other Funds:								
Programs:								
Child Care and Education Affordability	\$ 1,119	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,119
Child Care and Education Quality	50,607	26,001	-	-	465	-	-	24,141
Family Support	148,577	107,895	3,916	2,772	8,659	4,527	-	20,808
Health and Safety	56,606	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,606
Hurricane Relief	486,170	2,568	-	-	254	124	-	483,224
	<u>743,079</u>	<u>136,464</u>	<u>3,916</u>	<u>2,772</u>	<u>9,378</u>	<u>4,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>585,898</u>
Support:								
Fundraising	2,494	46	-	2,203	100	145	-	-
Management and General	12,113	5,685	-	508	1,502	4,418	-	-
	<u>14,607</u>	<u>5,731</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,711</u>	<u>1,602</u>	<u>4,563</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other:								
Sales Tax Paid	3,782	-	-	3,782	-	-	-	-
	<u>3,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,782</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Other Funds Expenditures	<u>\$ 761,468</u>	<u>\$ 142,195</u>	<u>\$ 3,916</u>	<u>\$ 9,265</u>	<u>\$ 10,980</u>	<u>\$ 9,214</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 585,898</u>

The Accompanying Notes are an Integral Part of the Financial Statements.

SMART START PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Organization and Purpose - The Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc. (Henderson County Partnership) is a legally separate nonprofit organization incorporated on October 21, 1997. The Henderson County Partnership was established to develop and provide, through public and private means, early childhood education and developmental services for children and families. The Henderson County Partnership is tax-exempt as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

B. Basis of Presentation - The accompanying financial statements present all funds for which the Henderson County Partnership's Board of Directors is responsible. Pursuant to the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standard for *Not-For-Profit Entities*, the accompanying financial statements present information according to two classes of net assets: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions. Net assets without donor restrictions are the part of net assets not subject to donor-imposed restrictions (donors include other types of contributors, including makers of certain grants). Net assets with donor restrictions are the part of net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions. As permitted by this Standard, contributions with donor restrictions received and expended in the same year are reported as receipts without donor restrictions rather than receipts with donor restrictions.

Contributions with donor restrictions that are not expended within the year received are reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions. When the restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis as net assets released from restrictions.

C. Basis of Accounting - The accompanying financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting. This basis differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America primarily because it recognizes long lived assets and other costs which benefit more than one period as expended in the year purchased; it recognizes revenue when received rather than when earned; and it recognizes expenditures when paid rather than when incurred.

However, unexpended advances to contractors that revert back to the State of North Carolina are recognized as a reduction to expenditures and an increase to net assets. In addition, amounts withheld from employee paychecks or other amounts received in an agency capacity are recorded as funds held for others. Additionally, Smart Start funds advanced to the Local

Partnership that are unexpended and unearned at year end are recorded as funds Due to the State.

- D. Cash and Cash Equivalents** - This classification appears on the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis and includes all demand and savings accounts and certificates of deposit and other short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.
- E. Due to State** - The funding provided by the State of North Carolina for the Smart Start initiative is funded on a cost-reimbursement basis. The money is earned to the extent of allowable costs incurred. Any unexpected funds as of June 30 are required to be reverted to The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. to be returned to the State of North Carolina.
- F. Property and Equipment** - Under the modified cash basis of accounting, purchases of property and equipment are reported as expenditures in the year incurred. However, Henderson County Partnership, is required by contract regulation to track and maintain property and equipment items as presented in Schedule 4 of this report. The Henderson County Partnership has a policy to track purchases of property and equipment items with an individual cost of \$500 or more and an estimated useful life greater than one year. Such items are valued at their original purchase price, which may be different from their valuation as of June 30, 2025. Donated items are recorded on the property and equipment log at estimated fair market value at the date of donation, which is defined as the price that would be paid to acquire an asset with equivalent service capacity in an orderly market transaction at the acquisition date.
- G. Compensated Absences** - As a result of the use of the modified cash basis of accounting, liabilities related to accrued compensated absences are not recorded in the financial statements. Expenditures related to compensated absences are recorded when paid. The amount of accrued compensated absences for accumulated, unpaid leave that would be due to employees upon termination is reported as a commitment in Note 9.
- H. Use of Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the Henderson County Partnership requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as allocation of joint costs); accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates. It is management's belief that these estimates are reasonable and fair.
- I. Qualifying Match and Contributions of Financial and Nonfinancial Assets** - The Henderson County Partnership, in accordance with applicable Smart Start legislation, reports qualifying match provided at both the Partnership and the contractor level; the qualifying match is reported in supplemental Schedule 5. The match includes contributions of cash and other financial assets, and nonfinancial assets. Contributions of cash and other financial assets, received and expended at the Partnership level, are recognized as revenue when they are received and as expenditures when they are paid and are included in the modified cash basis financial

statements. For valuation of contributions of other financial assets and nonfinancial assets, the Henderson County Partnership utilizes fair value on the date of the gift. Nonfinancial assets could be donated equipment, supplies, office space, or services. The Henderson County Partnership also benefits from donor volunteer hours which do not require special expertise, but which are nonetheless central to the Henderson County Partnership's operations. During the year ended June 30, 2025, the Henderson County Partnership did not receive any contributions of other financial assets. Under the modified cash basis of accounting, the qualifying match reported on Schedule 5 for cash provided at the contractor level and for donated assets and services at both the Partnership and contractor levels is not recorded. See supplemental Schedule 5 for more information on the contributions of nonfinancial assets.

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS

All funds of the Henderson County Partnership are deposited with commercial banks and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000 per bank.

The Henderson County Partnership utilizes a checking account linked to an Automated Investment Plan (IntraFi Sweep Account) to invest excess cash balances over \$250,000. Under the plan, excess funds are automatically placed in deposit accounts at multiple participating banks. The account is designed to maximize FDIC insurance coverage with no single bank holding more than \$250,000 of the Partnership's funds.

Deposits over insured amounts subjects the Henderson County Partnership to a concentration of credit risk. At June 30, 2025, the Henderson County Partnership deposits in excess of the FDIC insured limit was \$1,774.

NOTE 3 - FUNDING FROM GRANT AWARDS AND CONTRACTS

Smart Start Program - One of the Henderson County Partnership's major sources of revenue and support is from the State of North Carolina based on cost-reimbursement contracts with The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) for the Smart Start program. A significant reduction in the level of funding from the State could have an adverse effect on the operations of the Henderson County Partnership and represents a concentration of credit risk as to the generation of revenue.

Associated with these contracts, the Henderson County Partnership is responsible for developing a comprehensive, collaborative, long-range plan of services to children and families for the service-delivery area. During the year, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into contracts with and made payments to service providers selected by the Henderson County Partnership. These service provider contracts are not reflected on the accompanying financial statements. However, a summary of the service provider contracts entered into DHHS is presented on Schedule 2 accompanying the financial statements.

The Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received and expended \$1,151,686 under a current year Smart Start contract with NCPC. The unexpended balance of this contract is subject to reversion to the State. The Henderson County Partnership refunded \$53,290 of this contract to the State based on financial status reports submitted to NCPC subsequent to June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued funding through new Smart Start contracts with the State.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expansion Program - The Henderson County Partnership was awarded funds under a Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expansion Grant (DPIL) with NCPC. The term of the grant is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025 with an award amount of \$19,200. During the year ended June 30, 2025, the Henderson County Partnership received \$9,600 and expended \$19,200. As allowed by program regulation, the unexpended balance of the current year contract is available to carry forward to the subsequent year.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued funding through new DPIL contracts with NCPC.

Henderson County Public School System - The Henderson County Partnership received revenue and support from the Henderson County Public School System in support of a shared Kindergarten Transition Activity. The Term of the grant is July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 with an award amount of \$56,000. The Henderson County Partnership received and expended \$28,000 under the grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued support from the Henderson County Public School System.

North Carolina Partnership for Children Disaster Recovery Act Funds - The Henderson County Partnership was awarded funds for disaster assistance following the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. This grant was from the State of North Carolina and was awarded to the Henderson County Partnership by NCPC with a term of February 19, 2025 through June 30, 2027. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded \$1,373,959, received \$686,980 and expended \$126,908 under the contract during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership does not expect to receive continued funding through new Hurricane Relief contracts with NCPC.

Dogwood Health Trust - The Henderson County Partnership received revenue and support from the Dogwood Health Trust based on a three-year financial assistance contract for the regional Raising Resilience WNC activity. The Henderson County Partnership expended \$105,991 under a prior year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

Additionally, the Henderson County Partnership expended \$56,606 of prior year grant funds from Dogwood Health Trust for the Child Care Health Consultant activity during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from the Dogwood Health Trust to help and support Henderson County Child Care Providers following Hurricane Helene. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded and received \$360,000 and expended \$324,188 under the contract during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from the Dogwood Health Trust to support, celebrate and care for staff following Hurricane Helene. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received and expended \$12,500 under the contract during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued support from Dogwood Health Trust.

Town of Mills River - The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from the Town of Mills River to support Kindergarten Transition and Dolly Parton Imagination Library work in the municipality. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received, and expended \$18,000 under a current year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued support from the Town of Mills River.

United Way of Henderson County - The Henderson County Partnership received revenue and support from the United Way of Henderson County for the purpose of improving kindergarten readiness in Henderson County. This was awarded in grants for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, hurricane relief and Kindergarten Transition. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded \$22,500, received \$21,292, and expended \$18,912 under the grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership expects to receive continued support from United Way of Henderson County to improve kindergarten readiness in the community.

Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (Hurricane Recovery) - The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to support child care recovery after Hurricane Helene. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received, and expended \$25,000 under a current year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership does not expect to receive continued support from Community Foundation of Western North Carolina for hurricane-related child care recovery.

Community Foundation of Henderson County - The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from the Community Foundation of Henderson County through a Perry Rudnick Grant in the prior year. The Henderson County Partnership expended \$10,000 under a prior year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

Additionally, the Henderson County Partnership received revenue and support from the Community Foundation of Henderson County to support Kindergarten Transition work in Fletcher. Under this contract, the Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received, and expended \$5,000 under a current year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership does not expect to receive continued support from the Community Foundation of Henderson County.

Western North Carolina Bridge Foundation (Hurricane Recovery) - The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from The Western North Carolina Bridge Foundation to support families with young children following Hurricane Helene. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded, received, and expended \$10,000 under a current year grant during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership does not expect to receive continued support from the Western North Carolina Bridge Foundation for this purpose.

Speedway Children's Charities and the Wilkes Community Partnership for Children (Hurricane Recovery) - The Henderson County Partnership also received revenue and support from the Speedway Children's Charities and the Wilkes Community Partnership for Children to support resiliency-building for families with young children following Hurricane Helene. The Henderson County Partnership was awarded and received \$10,000 during the year ended June 30, 2025.

The Henderson County Partnership does not expect to receive continued support from Speedway Children's Charities and the Wilkes Community Partnership for Children.

NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations - The board members of the Henderson County Partnership are representative of various organizations that benefit from actions taken by the Board. It is the policy of the Henderson County Partnership that board members not be involved with decisions regarding organizations they represent. During the year, the Henderson County Partnership entered into contracts with board member organizations for program activities as identified on Schedule 1 accompanying the financial statements.

NOTE 5 - FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis. Also, the Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis, provides detail of the functional costs by their natural classification. Following are the services associated with the functional categories presented in the accompanying financial statements and the methods utilized to allocate joint cost:

A. Program Functions

Child Care and Education Affordability - Used to account for service activities including or associated with State subsidy contract and services support (Division of Child Development and Early Education) [DCDEE], Head Start wraparound/extended day, dual subsidy and dual subsidy administration. Head Start classrooms and coordination, child care transportation for subsidized children, part-day subsidy programs, subsidy preschool classes and public-pre-K subsidy. Also, support for part-day programs for children not in full time care.

Child Care and Education Quality - Used to account for service activities including quality enhancement and maintenance, resource and referral, professional development and supplements, literacy for child care providers, provider training, special needs - early intervention support for child care professionals, child care needs and resources assessments, and kindergarten orientation/transition.

Family Support - Used to account for service activities including family resource centers, family support, ongoing parent education, family intervention, literacy, home visiting and community systems building and public awareness.

Health and Safety - Used to account for service activities associated with comprehensive medical home services, child care health consultations, prenatal/newborn services, and health and nutrition programs.

Hurricane Relief - Used to account for providing funding for disaster relief assistance and to reopen and maintain operations, including, but not limited to, cleaning, repairs, and relocation in adherence to The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 - Part II, Senate Bill 743, SL 2024-53.

B. Support Functions

Fundraising - Expenditures that are incurred in inducing others to contribute money, securities, time, materials, or facilities for which the contributor will receive no direct economic benefit.

Management and General - Expenditures that are not identifiable with a single program or fund-raising activity but are indispensable to the conduct of those activities and to an organization's existence, including expenditures for the overall direction of the organization, its general board activities,

business management, general recordkeeping, budgeting, and related purposes.

Program Planning, Coordination and Evaluation - Expenditures that are incurred to coordinate the policies, procedures, daily practices, and evaluation of service delivery, needs assessment and strategic planning. Also, costs associated with providing technical assistance, monitoring and reporting of in-house and direct service provider activities as to the delivery of services and adherence to the specific terms and conditions of the contracts.

C. Allocation of Joint Costs

Expenditures benefiting more than one purpose were allocated as follows:

Salaries and Benefits - Direct allocation based on employee time reports.

Other Costs - Other costs including occupancy cost (rent, utilities and maintenance), supplies and materials, and communication costs (telephone and printing) were indirectly allocated based on estimates of utilization.

NOTE 6 - OPERATING LEASE OBLIGATIONS

Future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases consist of the following at June 30, 2025:

Fiscal Year	Operating Leases
2026	\$ 27,103
2027	25,639
Total Minimum Lease Payments	<u>\$ 52,742</u>

Rental expense for all operating leases during the year was \$26,424.

NOTE 7 - PENSION PLAN

IRC Section 403(b) Plan - All permanent employees who are at least half time can participate in a tax sheltered annuity plan (Plan) created under Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b). The Plan is a defined contribution plan in which each employee of the Henderson County Partnership, as a condition of employment, is provided an individual annuity through an outside insurance company. The Henderson County Partnership contributed 4-7% of gross wages for the year ended June 30, 2025. The employee's eligible contributions, made through salary reduction agreements, are exempt from federal and State income taxes until the annuity is received or the contributions are withdrawn. These Plans are exclusively for employees of universities and certain charitable and other nonprofit organizations. All costs of administering and funding these Plans are the responsibility of the Plan participants. The Henderson County Partnership contributed \$24,392 for retirement benefits during the year.

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Henderson County Partnership is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; employees' health and life; and natural disasters. The Henderson County Partnership manages these various risks of loss as follows:

<u>Type of Loss</u>	<u>Method Managed</u>	<u>Risk of Loss Retained</u>
Torts, errors and omissions, health and life	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Workers Compensation - employee injuries	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Physical property loss and natural disasters	Purchased commercial insurance	None

Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant losses to the Henderson County Partnership. Settled claims have not exceeded this insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE 9 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Compensated Absences - As a result of the Henderson County Partnership's use of the modified cash basis of accounting, accrued liabilities related to compensated absences (vacation only; sick leave does not vest) and any employer-related costs earned and unpaid, are not reflected in the financial statements. The compensated absences commitment for vacation leave at June 30, 2025 is \$27,114. No funds or reservation of net assets has been made for this commitment.

NOTE 10 - RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

- A. Net Assets With Donor Restrictions** - Net assets with donor restrictions at June 30, 2025 are restricted for the following purposes:

Purpose	Amount
NCPHC Hurricane Helene Recovery Grant Funds	\$ 560,072
Family Engagement and Leadership Training Grant	2,000
Duke Energy Grant	3,483
Leadership Collaborative	23,786
Literacy	61,108
Speedway Children's Fund Resiliency Grant	10,000
Child Care Subsidy	4,881
Kindergarten Readiness	2,380
Raising Resilience WNC	12,596
Helene Relief and Recovery for Child Care Providers	40,535
	<u>\$ 720,841</u>

- B. Net Assets Released From Donor Restrictions** - Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 by incurring expenditures satisfying the restricted purposes as follows:

Purpose	Amount
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expansion Funds	\$ 9,600
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Books	10,000
Child Care Subsidy	1,119
Raising Resilience WNC	60,649
Child Care Health Consultant	56,606
	<u>\$ 137,974</u>

NOTE 11 - FINANCIAL ASSETS AVAILABLE TO MEET CASH NEEDS

The following reflects the Henderson County Partnership financial assets as of June 30, 2025 reduced by amounts not available for general use because of contractual or donor-imposed restrictions within one year of June 30, 2025:

Financial assets at year-end	\$ 910,088
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year due to:	
Contractual or donor-imposed restrictions:	
Restricted by donor with time and purpose restrictions (See Note 10A)	<u>(720,841)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 189,247</u>

The Henderson County Partnership is supported by contributions with donor restrictions. Because a donor's restriction requires resources to be used in a particular manner or in a future period, the Henderson County Partnership must maintain sufficient resources to meet these responsibilities to its donors. Thus, financial assets may not be available for general expenditures within one year.

As part of the Henderson County Partnership's liquidity management, it has a policy to appoint the Executive Committee and staff leadership to provide oversight with ongoing notification to the full board. Upon knowledge of funding concerns, staff leadership will notify the Executive Committee who will meet to assess the threat and time period funding could be impacted. This might include a review of existing contracts, grant requirements, grantors, direct service providers and administrative leases and a plan to contact anyone who might be impacted. This should also include a review of existing recurring/predictable funding needs such as salaries, benefits and other predictable expenses along with a review of funds available and a plan to contact anyone who might be impacted.

NOTE 12 - INCOME TAXES

The Henderson County Partnership is exempt from payment of income taxes under the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 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. Management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Henderson County Partnership and has concluded that, as of June 30, 2025, there are no

uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

Income tax returns for 2022 through 2024 remain open to examination by the tax authorities.

NOTE 13 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Henderson County Partnership has evaluated events and transactions that occurred between June 30, 2025 and October 22, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued, for possible recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. Events or transactions that provided evidence about conditions that did not exist at June 30, 2025 but arose before the financial statements were available to be issued have not been recognized in the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

This information is an integral part of the financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Schedule of Contract and Grant Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 1

Organization Name	Smart Start Funds		Other Funds	
	Amount Advanced	Refund Due	Amount Advanced	Refund Due
Organizations:				
Alexandra's Child Care Home	\$ 2,629	\$ -	\$ 1,926	\$ -
Alice's Playground	60,010	-	12,884	-
Beacon Child Development Center	3,150	-	4,740	-
Bells School for People Under Six	-	-	6,978	-
Best Ever Home Daycare FCCH	-	-	38,523	-
Buncombe Partnership for Children	-	-	3,952	-
Children and Family Resource Center	187,121	-	56,606	-
Creative Beginnings Christian Preschool	-	-	6,325	-
Dana Elementary School	5,000	-	-	-
East Coast Migrant Head Start	-	-	20,306	-
Fletcher Elementary	2,000	-	3,000	-
FUMC Hendersonville	-	-	20,418	-
God's Gift	-	-	23,028	-
Grace Lutheran	-	-	22,146	-
His Kids Child Development Center	-	-	15,226	-
Horseshoe First Baptist Church preschool	-	-	3,795	-
Immaculata Catholic Pre-K	5,762	-	10,141	-
Kids Kountry Klub House	10,696	-	-	-
Laurie's Childcare FCCH	-	-	1,420	-
Little Blessings	111,069	-	42,306	-
Little Bright Minds	7,615	-	15,798	-
Little Red School	37,964	-	13,679	-
Love and Learning	21,150	-	8,884	-
Mills River Elementary	-	-	8,000	-
Montessori Country Day	-	-	12,687	-
Mountain Fundamentals	-	-	7,615	-
Mt. Pisgah Lutheran	29,649	-	18,396	-
Mud Creek Christian School	-	-	10,769	-
Nessa's Young'uns Natural Play Center I	128,505	-	40,604	-
Play and Learning Center	5,400	-	30,820	-
Sonshine Preschool	-	-	9,492	-
Steps to Hope	34,217	-	26,246	-
Tomorrow's Hope	* 1,800	-	235	-
Toris Tots	-	-	4,508	-
Tumblin Toddlers	-	-	41,086	-
Wild Oak Independent School	-	-	5,709	-
WNC Source	12,922	-	2,903	-
	<u>666,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>551,151</u>	<u>-</u>
Individuals:				
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	20,107	-	15,034	-
Kindergarten Transition Supplies, Materials, Bags	-	-	14,962	-
Helene Support of Child Care Center Staff (scrubs, gloves, etc.)	-	-	2,340	-
Helene Recovery Support for Families with Young Children	-	-	2,411	-
	<u>20,107</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,747</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 686,766</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 585,898</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

* These organizations are represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 4 - Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations.

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Schedule of State Level Service Provider Contracts (Unaudited)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 2

Organization Name	DHHS Contracts
Early Years	\$ 60,000
	<u>\$ 60,000</u>

The information on this schedule provides a listing of service provider contracts entered into by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as described in Note 3 - Funding from Grant Awards and Contracts.

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Schedule of Federal and State Awards - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 3

Federal Grantor/State Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Contract Number	Receipts	Expenditures
Federal Awards:				
United States Department of Education				
Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction				
Pass-through from the Henderson County Public School System				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	S010A230033	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
Total Receipts and Expenditures of Federal Awards			28,000	28,000
State Awards:				
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services				
Division of Child Development and Early Education				
Pass-through from The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.				
Early Childhood Initiatives Program	*	N/A	1,098,396	1,098,396
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Expansion		N/A	9,600	19,200
Hurricane Helene Recovery Grant - Henderson County	*	232:24/25-020	550,329	126,692
Hurricane Helene Recovery Grant - Transylvania County	*	232:24/25-028	136,651	216
Total Receipts and Expenditures of State Awards			1,794,976	1,244,504
Total Receipts and Expenditures of Federal and State Awards			\$ 1,822,976	\$ 1,272,504

* Programs with compliance requirements that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Schedule of Property and Equipment - Modified Cash Basis
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 4

Furniture and Noncomputer Equipment	\$ 12,731
Computer Equipment/Printers	<u>28,470</u>
Total Property and Equipment	<u>\$ 41,201</u>

Note: The information on this schedule provides a summary of property and equipment with acquisition or donated cost of \$500 or more which were held by the Partnership at year end. The valuations represent historical cost. On the modified cash basis of accounting, these items are expensed in the year of purchase.

Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Schedule of Qualifying Match (Non-GAAP) (Unaudited)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Schedule 5

Match Provided at the Partnership Level:

Cash	\$	87,736
Contributions of other nonfinancial assets		<u>157,188</u>
	\$	<u>244,924</u>

Match Provided at the Contractor Level:

Cash	\$	73,442
Contributions of other nonfinancial assets		<u>46,308</u>
	\$	<u>119,750</u>

Note: This schedule is presented in accordance with the program match requirement as provided for by North Carolina Session Law 2023-134, Section 9D.5.(d). The match is comprised of both cash and contributions of nonfinancial assets. Only contributions of nonfinancial assets that are verifiable, quantifiable, and related to the Smart Start Program can be applied to the match requirement, including volunteer services. The law allows for volunteer services to be valued for match purposes, a concept that deviates from generally accepted accounting principles. This schedule identifies those amounts allowable for this partnership in meeting the statewide match requirement.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, Smart Start met the legislative statewide match requirement and will be waiving penalties for local partnerships that do not meet their match requirement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

To Board Members of
Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
Henderson, North Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 22, 2025.

As described in Note 1, the financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.'s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charlotte, North Carolina
October 22, 2025