

Smart Start Partnership for Children

2019-2020 Annual Plan

Bid Activities

Parents As Teachers

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program will provide: (1) personal visits, based on recommended dosage for each family's number of risk factors; (2) 12 group connections per program year; (3) annual developmental screenings and a health review that includes a record of hearing, vision and general health status; and (4) referrals to community resources provided to families as needed. The PAT program will serve a target population with at least one risk factor and identified as most appropriate for PAT services in the community. The parent educator will have a bachelor's degree in a human service related field and experience relevant to serving the target population. Parent educators will be PAT trained and certified and will implement the program with model fidelity. The program will submit an annual report to PAT and participate in the Quality Endorsement and Improvement process as required by PAT National Center (PATNC). Smart Start funds may be used for support incentives for eligible participants and for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

A time limited waiver to NCPC's requirement that the parent educators have a BA degree in a human service related field has been granted for the FY 19-20.

Reach Out and Read

This activity will collaborate with medical care practices to provide pre-literacy opportunities for children and their parents. The participating trained medical care providers will voluntarily incorporate Reach Out and Read (ROR), an evidence-based model, into young children's regular pediatric checkups or well-child visits. The medical care providers will implement ROR in their practices according to the National ROR guidelines. During each of the routine visits, children will receive a new, culturally- and developmentally- appropriate book to take home and read with their parents. The medical care providers will discuss the importance of reading, model reading a book aloud to the child, and encourage parent-child interactions as part of pre-literacy and language development. The program

begins at the child's 6-month checkup and continues through age 5, with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Medical practices will participate in the parent survey period and submit parent surveys to ROR Carolinas. This activity will provide staff support to assist the medical practice with book ordering, data collection, literacy rich waiting room development and overall program coordination. Smart Start funds may be used to support the purchase of material for a literacy rich waiting area as well as light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

Smart Start Rewards

The Professional Development Program will offer a professional development supplement based on educational levels and/or a longevity incentive to eligible child care providers. The Professional Development Program staff will provide technical assistance to child care providers regarding eligibility requirements as well as educate providers on the importance of increasing education levels and decreasing turnover rates within child care facilities. Child care educators who work in Henderson County and meet all eligibility requirements can participate in the Smart Start Rewards Program. Funds may also be used to conduct best practice research, work with focus groups and complete surveys. Smart Start funds may be used for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

Smart Start Quality Enhancement

This activity will offer on-site technical assistance and consultation to Henderson County child care centers and homes. The primary goal of the services will be to focus on and increase relationships between teachers and students. Services offered may include, but are not limited to, the use of pre/post research-based assessments like ERS, CLASS, or CSEFEL, with CLASS being the predominant tool. This activity will also provide one-on-one mentoring or coaching to improve early educator practice, group workshops or other training, including, but not limited to CEU trainings or CLASS observations. A portion of the trainings will include follow-up observations on-site to assess actual implementation of learning. All program services will be designed and implemented in an effort to increase the quality of 1-3 star facilities, maintain the quality of 4 and 5 star facilities, and increase and

maintain the knowledge early care and education professionals need to care for children. Smart Start funds may be used for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library activity will promote emergent literacy skills through a partnership with Dollywood Foundation. Through this activity, age-appropriate books will be mailed to registered children birth up to age five (0-5) monthly. Families will be recruited in target zip codes. Children are eligible to receive books regardless of family income. The books will be ordered using the Dollywood Foundation Book Ordering System (BOS) database. Families will be encouraged to participate in surveys designed to evaluate the program's impact on participating children. Books that are returned as non-deliverable can be redistributed to locations in the community such as waiting rooms at Social Services and Public Health, local child care programs, and other locations where families can receive information about early childhood services. Smart Start funds may be used to support program coordination work and for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

Kindergarten Transition

The Kindergarten Transition program will focus on engaging parents, early care and education providers and kindergarten teachers to build kindergarten readiness and strengthen the transition process in Henderson County. The program will include coordination, planning, and connection-building across the preschool-kindergarten continuum. The program's goal is to help young learners prepare before they arrive to kindergarten, and to promote and enhance the ease and constructiveness of children's transitions into kindergarten. Smart Start will work collaboratively with Henderson County Public Schools to create transition teams at key elementary schools to devise, implement, and monitor school-specific transition plans. These plans will provide opportunities for communication among parents and teachers, promotion of the transfer of information or documents among these individuals, and provision of activities or events like the Kindergarten Readiness Rally, that help ease a child's (and parent's) anxiety about entering kindergarten and build familiarity with the school environment and the kindergarten teacher. Smart Start funds may be used to support program coordination work and for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.

Go NAPSACC

In collaboration with the Henderson County Department of Public Health and Healthy People Healthy Carolinas, Go NAPSACC works with Henderson County child care providers to improve the health of young children through practices, policies, and environments that instill habits supporting lifelong health and well-being. A Go NAPSACC health educator will engage the child care community to address seven target areas in their centers: child nutrition, breastfeeding and infant feeding, farm to ECE, oral health, infant and child physical activity, outdoor play and learning, and screen time. The health educator will have at least a bachelor's degree in a health-related field, knowledge of early childhood development, and experience in promoting health in a community setting. Smart Start funds may be used to support program coordination, enhance GO NAPSACC work, and for light refreshments, meals and/or meeting expenses.