



News Release

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Wake County SmartStart Announces New Program for Parents in the Works

RALEIGH, N.C. – Finding the right service for a child in need can be a daunting task. Parents can look forward to a less stressful road ahead in navigating home-based services. Wake County SmartStart received a three-year grant of \$295,496 from the John Rex Endowment to create a coordinated system ensuring that home visiting services are easily accessible, and better utilized by the community.

The new program is called Wake Connections: Partnerships to Support Young Children at Home

Funding will be used to coordinate home visiting programs in the county that serve children birth to 5; matching existing services and programs to those in need. It is expected to complement the model for coordination of services created by Wake County SmartStart for the NC Pre-Kindergarten single application process.

Additionally, the initiative will provide support for parents and other agencies wishing to make referrals or seeking guidance. A goal of the program is to simplify access to services for families of young children in Wake County.

Wake County SmartStart is pleased to announce the addition of Sasha Gomez as the Project Coordinator for Wake Connections. A counselor by education, Sasha has worked with numerous maternal and infant health programs focusing on at-risk populations. She has extensive experience managing adult and teen parenting programs.

“Building the Wake Connections program will ultimately bring navigating services to parent’s fingertips, connecting supportive guidance with high tech resources. I look forward to the partnerships Wake Connections will develop between programs to create more accessible and customized supports for young children and their families.” – Sasha Gomez

About Wake County SmartStart

Wake County SmartStart works to ensure children, birth to five, are prepared for success in school and in life. This mission is carried out in three goal areas; accessible and available high quality child care, safe and healthy living environments and kindergarten readiness. Through community collaborations and funding of local partners, we expand the support available to children and their families. By working together, we are strengthening the outcomes for not only our children, but our entire community. To learn more about our mission, visit www.wakesmartstart.org.