



Cumberland County Board of Directors

What's Your Charge

Smart Start Orientation



Ice breaker!



Tell us more about you!

What is your WHY?

What is Smart Start?



Smart Start Vision:

Advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable system of care and education for each child beginning with a healthy birth.

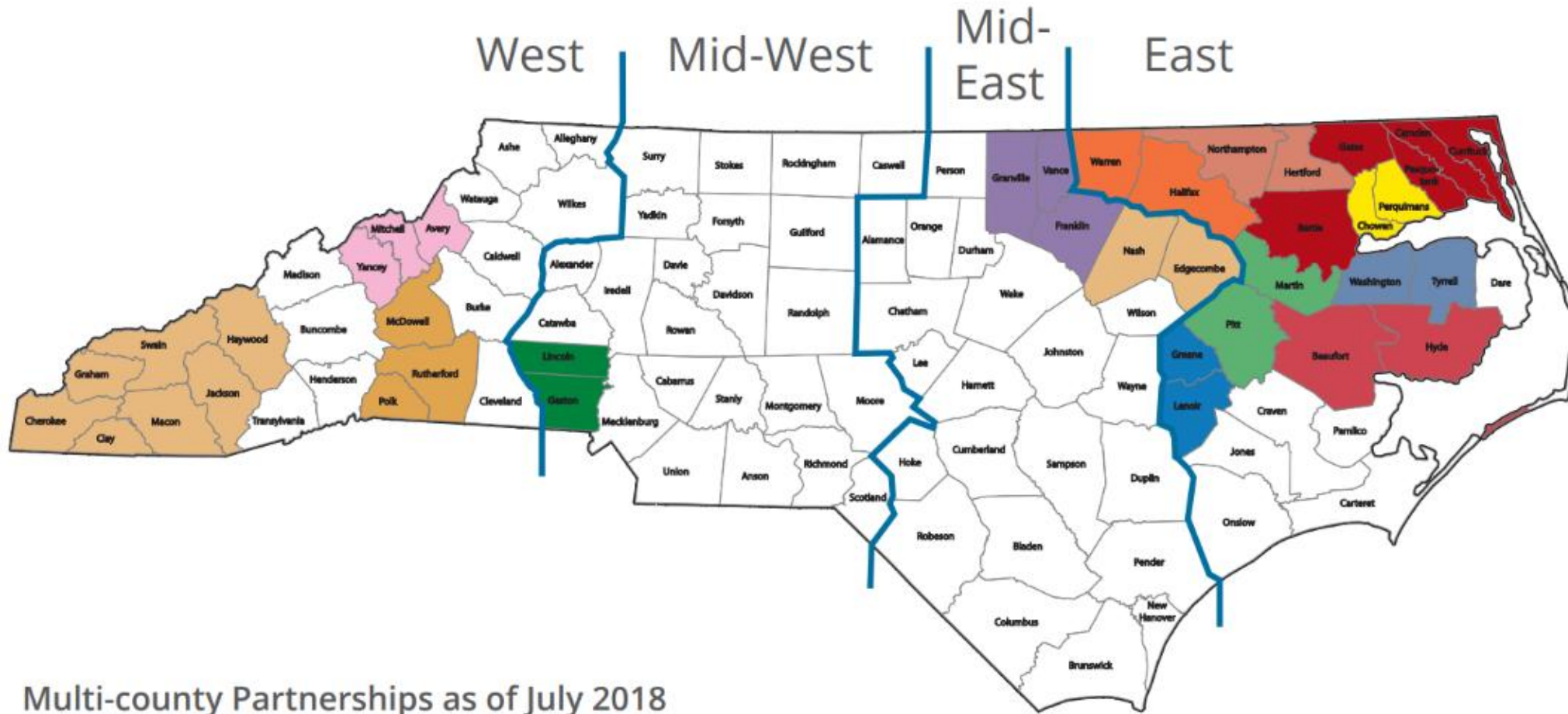


The Smart Start Network:

75 Independent, nonprofit organizations serving all 100 NC Counties. Smart Start was designed to give communities local control to determine the best approach to achieving outcomes for children and families.



North Carolina Smart Start Network



Multi-county Partnerships as of July 2018

Albemarle Smart Start Partnership, Inc. (Bertie/Camden/Currituck/Gates/Pasquotank)
 Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children
 Blue Ridge Partnership for Children (Avery, Mitchell, Yancey)
 Down East Partnership for Children (Nash/Edgecombe)
 Franklin-Granville-Vance Partnership for Children, Inc.
 Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
 Lenoir/Greene County Partnership for Children

Martin/Pitt Partnership for Children, Inc.
 Partnership for Children of the Foothills (Rutherford/Polk/McDowell)
 Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc.
 Region A Partnership for Children (Cherokee/Clay/Graham/Haywood/Jackson/Macon/Swain)
 The Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership
 The Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children, Inc.
 Tyrrell-Washington Partnership for Children, Inc.

Smart Start Network Leadership

Local Partnership Advisory Committee (LPAC)

NCPC Board of Directors

Appointed by elected officials or by virtue of their position, this board oversees NCPC's administration and implementation of Smart Start funds.

North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC)

Provides both accountability measures and technical assistance to local partnerships.

Local Partnership Board of Directors

Governs the local partnership by overseeing the administration and implementation of organizational vision and policy.

Local Partnership Executive Director

Provides the day-to-day management of the organization to ensure it meets its vision.



Ten Board Governance Responsibilities

Determine mission
& vision

Select an Executive
Director (ED)

Support and
evaluate the ED

Ensure effective
strategic planning

Monitor and
strengthen
programs &
services

Build a competent
board of directors

Protect assets and
provide financial
oversight

Ensure financial
resources

Ensure legal and
ethical integrity

Enhance the
organization's
public standing



Determine mission and purposes, and advocate for them.

The board is responsible for ensuring that the organization's mission is clearly stated and enthusiastically supported.

Support Our Mission

Support Local Families In and Around Fayetteville

Families require support in different aspects. Our newborn program is designed to offer assistance to families for the first 12 weeks of their newborn's life. We also assist parents in making informed decisions on a child care provider and provide support to families in paying for child care. Our aim is to fulfill the needs of our community and ensure that families receive the necessary support they require.

When you support the Partnership for Children, you are investing in our community's future: more than 16,000 children and families per year are impacted by the services and programs offered through our Partnership. Every family deserves the opportunity for a happy, healthy, and prosperous future.

Your gift of time, talent, or treasure:

- improves the quality of local childcare educators and centers
- increases the accessibility and availability of childcare
- provides resources and support to families with young children
- prepares children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed

Our vision is to live in an economically prosperous community where families are successful and children thrive.

Our mission is to achieve our vision, we will be the driving force to engage partners to achieve lasting positive outcomes for all children, beginning at birth.

What we do is focus on support for families with children birth to 5 years old. Our priorities are to provide services and supports that Advance the Well-being of Children, Strengthen the Early Care and Education System, and Empowers Families.

All donations are kept local, with \$0.96 of every dollar going to programs and services.





Select the chief executive.

The board's ability to consistently recruit and retain an effective leader is a critical factor in organizational success.





Support and evaluate the chief executive.

Providing personal and organizational support for executive leadership, periodically assessing the chief executive's performance, and acknowledging strong service through appropriate compensation are key board responsibilities.





Ensure effective planning.

Through the planning process, the board and staff translate the organization's mission into objectives and goals to be used to focus energy and resources.



Engage in a community needs assessment.



Use data to drive decisions



Engage stakeholders





Monitor and strengthen programs and services.

The board's fundamental responsibility begins with ensuring that current and proposed programs and services align with the organization's mission and purpose.

HOW WELL IS YOUR BOARD PROVIDING PROGRAMMATIC OVERSIGHT?



EXCELLING – EXCEPTIONAL

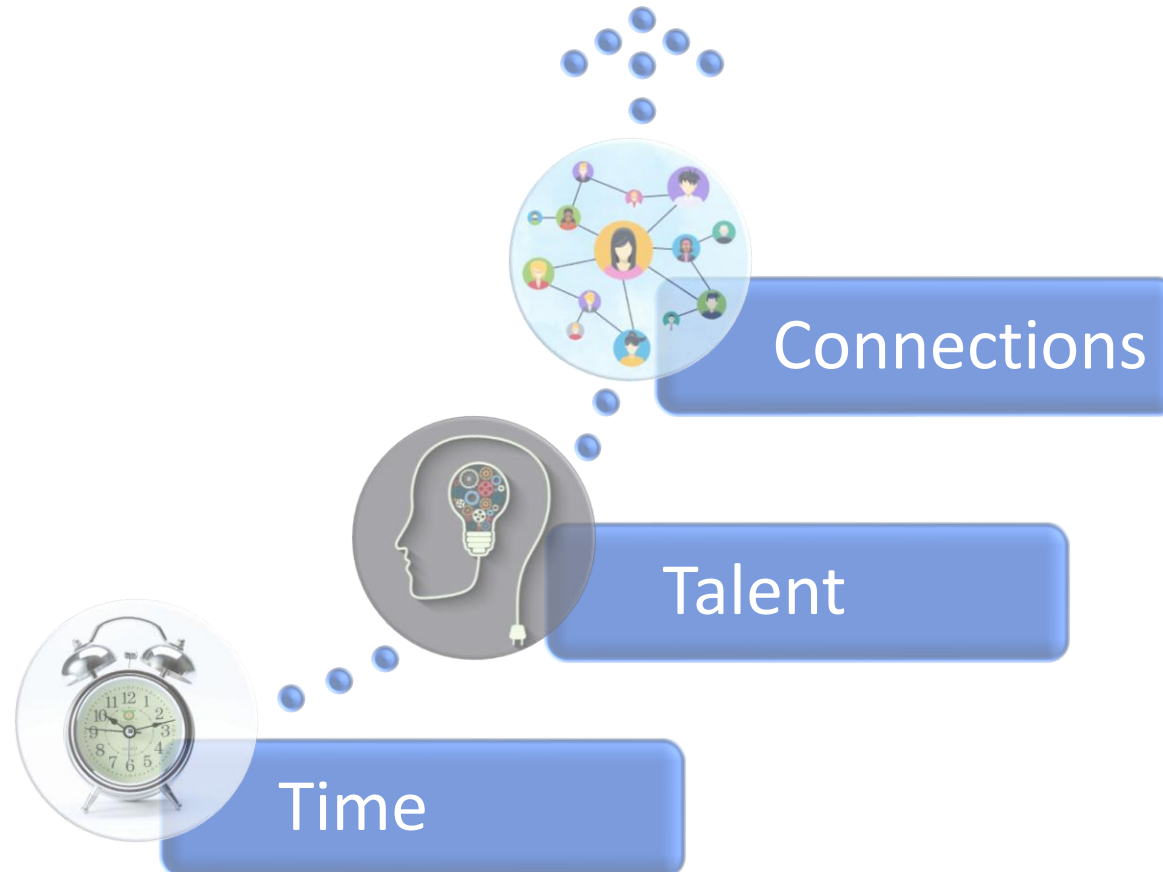
- The board has mechanisms in place to monitor the quality of the organization's programs and services.
- The board has standards against which organizational performance is measured.
- The board has the ability to measure the impact of critical programs and initiatives.





Ensure adequate financial resources.

While much can — and should — be expected of the chief executive and management team, boards are responsible for ensuring an organization has the funds it needs and that it doesn't spend beyond its means.





Protect assets and provide financial oversight.

Safeguarding organizational assets, and holding them “in trust” on behalf of others, is one of the most important board functions.





Build and sustain a competent board.

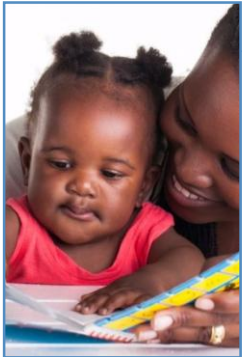
Three principles typically apply: Boards will only be as effective as their individual board members; the level of expectation for board members is consistently articulated by the organization its leaders; and well-balanced boards depend on the sustained diligence of a governance committee.





Ensure legal and ethical integrity.

Because the board is ultimately responsible for ensuring adherence to legal standards and ethical norms, its members should collectively exhibit diligence, commitment, and vigilance.



Achieve quorum when board action is needed.



Avoid conflicts of interest.



Adhere to Open Meetings and Public Record Law.



No Smart Start funds cannot be used to influence legislation or carry on propaganda.



Enhance the organization’s public standing.

Board members should think of themselves as ambassadors and advocates – and together with management strategically communicate the organization’s story and aspirations while contributing to a healthy and accurate public image.

Smart Start Messaging Toolkit

Toolkit Goals and Target Audiences

Overarching goal: To advocate with policymakers and business leaders to increase awareness of the need for a comprehensive approach for supporting families with young children in the first five years and to actively invest in Smart Start priorities.

Building a Brighter Future Together
for our Youngest Children:
a Smart Start Communications Toolkit

Target Audiences	Calls to Action
 <p>North Carolina Policymakers</p>	<p>Invest in our state’s child care, early education and family support infrastructure now for a stronger North Carolina today, tomorrow and beyond.</p>
 <p>North Carolina Business Leaders</p>	<p>Talk with your local policymakers about why investing in child care, early learning and family support infrastructure now is critical for your business’s success today, tomorrow and beyond.</p>

Smart Start Accountability Plan



Smart Start Accountability Plan Effective July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Established by the North Carolina Legislature in 1993, the Smart Start Network creates better outcomes for children and families across North Carolina. Created under legislation, The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) provides oversight, coordinates the statewide network, and ensures the accountability of state funds appropriated to NCPC and Local Partnerships. To meet this mandate, NCPC is required to develop and implement a comprehensive standard fiscal accountability plan (Accountability Plan). The legislation also requires NCPC to assure programmatic integrity for the programs and services in the Smart Start system. As a public-private partnership, NCPC also administers funding from other government and private funders. The Accountability Plan incorporates the requirements of these other funding sources as part of a comprehensive approach to accountability that ensures Smart Start holds itself to high standards as stewards of public and private funds to assure that each North Carolina child has opportunities to thrive.

ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PURPOSE

The Plan is designed to ensure full and complete accountability for all funds and programs administered by NCPC for maximum impact for young children and their families.

The Smart Start Network exists to improve the outcomes for the children of North Carolina. To ensure improved outcomes, the partnership between NCPC and the Local Partnerships has mutual accountability as outlined in this Plan. See Appendix I, page 6 for a diagram of the Accountability Life Cycle.



Appendix I – Accountability Life Cycle

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In creating the Smart Start Accountability Plan, NCPC and Local Partnerships strive to meet the following guiding principles adopted by the NCPC Board of Directors:

1. **Improvement and effectiveness**- Use population and performance data to assess the impact and suggest improvements to benefit young children, their families, and the systems serving them.
2. **Equity**- Use population and performance data to understand differences among subgroups of children and inform targeted activities to address gaps.
3. **Transparency and clarity**- Inform the public of the status of children in their communities.
4. **Inclusion and fairness**- NCPC and Local Partnerships shall work together to develop the accountability process and NCPC shall use corrective interventions deliberately and consistently.

Appendix I – Accountability Life Cycle



Local Partnership Board Member Resources

Local Partnership Board Member Resources

🏠 / Local Partnership Board Member Resources

Search here...



RESOURCES ℹ

Thank you for serving on your Local Smart Start Partnership Board and supporting the families and young children of North Carolina. On this page you will find various resources and links to make your job easier and assist you in the fulfillment of your role as a Board Member.



MORE ABOUT SMART START

- [About Smart Start](#)
- [Why Smart Start Works](#)
- [News](#)
- [FAQ's](#)
- [Evaluation Results](#)
- [Diversity Statement](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
- [Upcoming Events & Meetings](#)
- [NCPC Staff Directory](#)
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SMART START FOCUSED DOCUMENTS 📄

North Carolina Government



American Rescue Plan (ARP)



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND VIDEOS 🎓

Smart Start's Board Presentation

Smart Start offers a Local Partnership Board Presentation called [What's Your Charge?](#)

Smart Start's Online Courses











[Learning-Central Online Courses](#) such as the New Smart Start Board Orientation. [Get Board Member Access here.](#)

General Board of Directors

Why Do Parents Spend So Much On Child Care, Yet Early Childhood Educators Earn So Little?



ED Orientation Resources Site

Board Leadership

 Board/ED Roles Documents...	 Board/ED Roles Fillable...	 LP Board Composition...	 Board Source Governance...
 Guide to Open Government...	 Open Meetings Law Refresher..	 Public Records Request...	 Conflict of Interest...
 Salary Schedule for Smart Star..	 Videos to share with Board...		

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What May We Help You With?



I work at a
501(c)(3) nonprofit

[Get Information](#)



I work at an organization that helps
nonprofits

[Get Information](#)



I want to learn about North Carolina's
nonprofit sector

[Get Information](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



*Each Child in Every Community
Deserves a Smart Start*


Smart Start
Each Child. Every Community.


Smart Start