



NORTH CAROLINA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helping First-time Parents Succeed

Nurse-Family Partnership Expands in North Carolina *Mecklenburg County Parents and Children Will Benefit*



The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.



www.nursefamilypartnership.org

CHARLOTTE - Mecklenburg County has been selected to receive funding to launch the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), a nationally recognized, evidence-based nurse home visitation program that helps transform the lives of first-time, low-income parents and their children. Community Health Services and the Mecklenburg County Health Department are administering the program.

In addition to Mecklenburg County and the existing Nurse-Family Partnership in Guilford County, the program now will serve parents and children in Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, Robeson, Rutherford and Wake counties. NFP and its partners in the state are working to expand to additional counties in the near future.

In its 30-year history, NFP has shown substantial, consistent and dramatic results related to child health, child abuse and neglect, crime reduction and school readiness, including:

- 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect;
- 56% reduction in emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings;
- 59% reduction in arrests at child age 15;
- 67% reduction in behavioral and intellectual problems at age six; and
- 72% fewer convictions of mothers at child age 15.

The Duke Endowment, The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina are providing significant, long-term support of the program to expand it in North Carolina.

“We are very excited that we get to be one of the first counties in the state to bring NFP to families in our community,” said Jen Algire, executive director of Community Health Services. “We believe our children and families will benefit greatly from this investment in their health, parenting skills and overall well-being.”

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Under the program, first-time mothers meet with a registered nurse early in pregnancy and nurse home visits continue through the child's second birthday. Registered nurses visit weekly for the first month after enrollment and then every other week until the baby is born. Visits are weekly for the first six weeks after the baby is born, and then every other week until the child is 20 months old. The last four visits are monthly until the child is two years old.

The North Carolina NFP plans to share the successes from these expansion counties to encourage continued support for the program through public and private sources.

NFP nurse home visitors work with their clients to achieve three important goals:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventive health practices, including obtaining thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
- Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

About the North Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership Partners

[The Duke Endowment](#), in Charlotte, N.C., seeks to fulfill the legacy of James B. Duke by enriching lives and communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children's services. With assets of over \$3 billion, the Endowment has awarded more than \$2.4 billion in grants since its inception in 1924.

[The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust](#) works to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina. Since the Trust began in 1947, its assets have grown from \$5 million to \$600 million, placing it among the largest in the state. Since it began, the Trust has invested more than \$400 million toward improving life and health for needy residents of North Carolina.

[The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#) (DHHS) is the largest agency in state government, responsible for ensuring the health, safety and well being of all North Carolinians. The mission of DHHS is to provide efficient services that enhance the quality of life of North Carolina individuals and families so that they have opportunities for healthier and safer lives, resulting ultimately in the achievement of economic and personal independence. The Division of Public Health (DPH) works to promote and contribute to the highest possible level of health for the people of the state.

[The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.](#) leads the state's Smart Start initiative. Smart Start is North Carolina's early childhood leadership network dedicated to assuring that every child reaches his or her potential and is prepared for success in a global community.

[Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina](#) is the only statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in all of its forms. We are a state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America with a thriving statewide Prevention Network. Our Prevention Network consists of over 300 organizations and volunteers working to implement child abuse prevention programs in their local communities.

[The Nurse-Family Partnership](#) National Service Office is committed to producing enduring improvements in the health and well being of low-income, first-time parents and their children by helping communities implement and sustain an evidence-based program of home visiting by registered nurses. It is the most rigorously tested program of its kind. Randomized, controlled trials conducted over the past 30 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes that benefit society economically and reduce long-term social service expenditure. Mothers and children who have participated in the program have consistently demonstrated significantly improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, reductions in child abuse and neglect, reduced involvement with crime, increased maternal employment and improved school readiness.

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