



MEMORANDUM

To: Mecklenburg County Child Care Providers
Community Partners

From: Smart Start of Mecklenburg County Leadership Team

Date: April 20, 2020

RE: Smart Start Child Care Provider COVID-19 Relief Fund

Over the past several weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed our everyday lives in many ways. As the issues continue, so do the needs of our community. We are so grateful for the leadership and philanthropy that has occurred in Charlotte in order to provide assistance to those individuals and organizations most impacted by this crisis. We are also extremely grateful for the dedicated, essential workers who continue to serve during this time.

Child care continues to be an area of great concern. While we know social distancing is a top priority right now, we also know that children of essential workers need access to quality child care so that they can continue to work and provide critical services our community so desperately needs. With new, increased sanitation regulations from the state, area child care centers have been allowed to remain open/reopen, provided they meet these new requirements. However, the need for these centers is extensive and ongoing.

To that end, Smart Start of Mecklenburg County has established the Child Care Provider COVID-19 Relief Fund in order to offer assistance to licensed centers and homes actively serving children or working to reopen. Centers throughout the County will have the opportunity to apply for one-time grant funds to assist with COVID-19 related expenses incurred. Funding amounts will be tiered based on the number of children served while funds remain available. Priority will be given to centers that have remained open, followed by those that have reopened, then centers that are planning to open by June.

If you are a child care center in Mecklenburg County and would like to apply for assistance, please visit our COVID-19 Response page on our website at smartstartofmeck.org, and click on the application link. You may also email us at covid19@smartstartofmeck.org.

This opportunity to assist our local child care centers is made possible by the generosity of our partners at Vanguard through the Strong Start for Kids Program. We are extremely grateful for their support and their willingness to assist our community during this crisis. If you need additional information, or would like to contribute to this relief effort, you may contact Mike Blackwelder, Interim CEO, at 704-943-9405 or mblackwelder@smartstartofmeck.org. Thank you for your support of Smart Start, and for the incredible work you do in our community.

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County

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