

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Randolph Partnership for Children awarded Think Babies™ NC micro grant

Funds will engage parents of young children in advocacy efforts

ASHEBORO, N.C. (July 24, 2020) — Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC) Executive Director Lisa Hayworth announced on July 20 the agency was one of ten selected to receive a Think Babies™ NC micro grant from the NC Early Education Coalition with support from ZERO TO THREE.

“We are very excited about the opportunity to continue to expand the Think Babies™ NC initiative with our new and ongoing community partners,” Coalition Policy Director Michele Rivest said. “We know that these committed advocates will raise awareness of the challenges facing babies and families—before, during and after this crisis—and together we will advance solutions in local communities and throughout North Carolina.”



RPC's project was funded for \$2,000 to work with eight parents who currently have at least one infant or toddler in the home. The parents will work to identify issues and then articulate their concerns and ideas to at least five elected officials through a letter-writing campaign and follow-up.

According to the project narrative, RPC's intent is to help parents become more comfortable interacting with elected officials as well as voicing the concerns and issues that impact them, especially in regards to children birth to 3 years old. Through letter writing, follow-up calls, and virtual interaction, RPC hopes to not only build confidence and skills, but to also encourage participants to serve as an example and mentor among their peers.

“More than 4,000 infants and toddlers reside in Randolph County. About 1 in 4 live in poverty and deal with food insecurity. With the rapid increase in unemployment, decline in child care availability, and barriers reducing early intervention services due to the pandemic, there has never been a more critical time for leadership to understand and help families with young children,” Hayworth said. “We are honored to have the opportunity to support families amplify their voice on behalf of their children.”

This project will be implemented through the Randolph County Family Engagement and Leadership Coalition, which includes representation from Archdale Police Department, Regional Consolidated Services Head Start, Communities in Schools, and the Faith Community. The Coalition is an implementation team of Randolph ChAMPS, which is a collaborative group of



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community leaders in the early childhood space. Members include representatives from Randolph County Commissioners, Randolph County Social Services, Randolph County Public Health, Randolph County School System, Children's Developmental Services Agency, Communities in Schools, Regional Consolidated Services Head Start, Randolph Health Pediatrics, Daymark Recovery Services, Uwharrie Charter Academy, Randolph County Public Libraries, Child Care Centers, and Randolph Partnership for Children.

[CUTLINE: Think Babies™ is a trademark of ZERO TO THREE, a national organization launched in 1977 to ensure all babies get a strong start in life.]

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About the Randolph Partnership for Children: Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has been the community's lead organization for young children and their families. RPC brings together diverse agencies, individuals, organizations and communities to ensure all children enter school ready to succeed. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.randolphkids.org.

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