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PRESS RELEASE

“\$4.3 Million Spent on Non-Smart Start Child Care Subsidy in Randolph County”

Randolph County Department of Social Services administers child care subsidy funds for the citizens of Randolph County using a combination of state and federal funds allocated by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education. This past fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 Randolph County spent \$4,297,475 in non-Smart Start child care subsidy funding assisting Randolph County families. North Carolina currently provides subsidized child care to 64,951 children of which 989 live in Randolph County. Ninety-one percent of the children receiving services are because their parent(s) or responsible adult is employed.

The goal is to serve as many eligible children as possible with the funds available. Based on the population estimates in July 2017, Randolph County had 5,473 children under the age of six potentially eligible for child care subsidy services. The \$4.3 million available to Randolph County for child care last fiscal year only served about 18% of the potentially eligible population in the county. Funding for the current fiscal year that began July 1, 2017 is expected to also be approximately \$4.3 million.

The provision of subsidized child care services means that some families with poverty-level incomes can afford child care services which offer a high quality early childhood education while the parent or caregiver continues to work. This critical support increases the chances for children to be healthy and succeed socially and academically while allowing the parents to be more focused on the job and become better employees.

To qualify for the child care subsidy program, a family must meet both situational and financial criteria. Parents are required to pay a portion of the child care cost based on the income that the family earns.

Randolph County implemented the North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) for Subsidized Child Care Assistance on July 1, 2017. This system allows for a streamlined payment system for providers that includes automated functions such as accepting vouchers for service, completing attendance, and being notified of changes electronically. Payments for services under the Subsidized Child Care Assistance program are now made by direct deposit to the provider.

If you have questions about the Child Care Subsidy Program, call or visit your local county DSS. In Randolph County call 336-683-8010. You can also visit: <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/> or the North Carolina web site at: <http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us>.

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www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/

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