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## NORTH CAROLINA

### We're Expanding!

Nurse-Family Partnership in North Carolina to serve new communities

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) in North Carolina is expanding! Thanks to the demonstrated success of current NFP sites and \$1.6 million in federal grants allocated to North Carolina for home visiting programs, NFP will now be able to assist more new families. We're hiring an additional registered nurse in Buncombe County, and establishing new NFP locations to reach families in Gaston, Edgecombe, Hertford, Halifax and Northampton counties.

This is exciting news for the Tar Heel State. Three years ago when our organizations joined a statewide public-private partnership dedicated to supporting NFP, we committed to ensuring it would thrive and expand in the state. One of our partners, the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health (DPH), worked to secure a portion of the federal home visiting funding for North Carolina – and their effort has paid off. We are now one step closer to our goal of bringing NFP to all

vulnerable, first-time families. To date, more than 1,350 families have enrolled in NFP in North Carolina. We are excited for the opportunity to reach out and impact new families in our state.

Thank you for your support.

Rosie Allen Ryan  
President and CEO  
Prevent Child Abuse  
North Carolina

Karen McNeil-Miller  
President  
Kate B. Reynolds  
Charitable Trust

### Spotlight: NC NFP Granted Federal Funding to Expand Services

In June, DPH announced that five organizations in the state would receive a portion of \$1.6 million in federal grants. These grants were allocated to North Carolina for the purpose of implementing evidence-based home-visiting programs like NFP. The funding was made available to states as part of the Maternal,

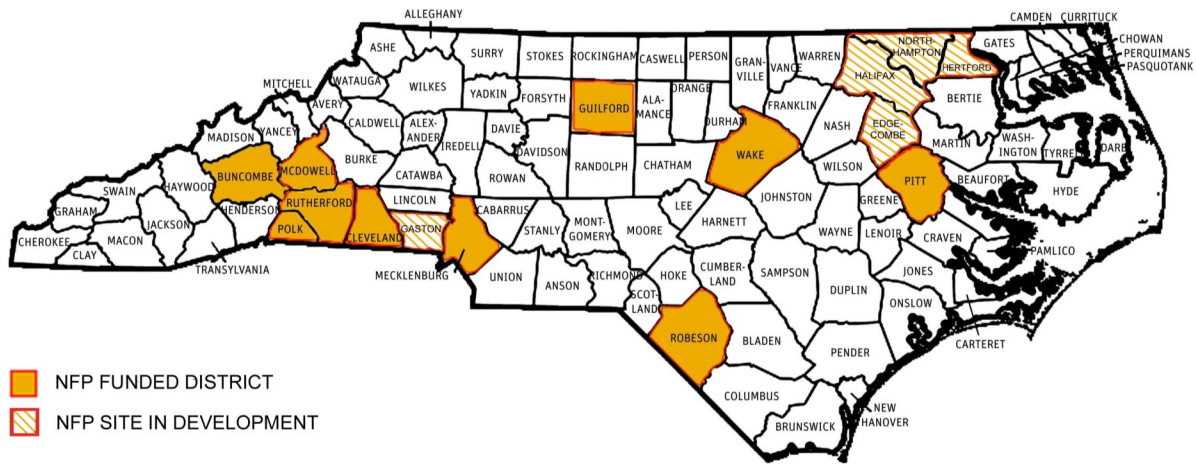
Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, a provision of the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

Three of the five community grant recipients will use the federal funds for NFP. These include the Gaston County Health Department, the Buncombe County

Department of Health and the Northampton County Health Department (serving Northampton, Halifax, Edgecombe and Hertford Counties).

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Spotlight Continued...



*North Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership is expanding into five new counties (Gaston, Northampton, Halifax, Edgecombe and Hertford).*

Funding provided to the Buncombe County Health Department, which has operated its NFP program since 2009, will allow the site to hire an additional NFP registered nurse who can begin seeing a caseload of 25 clients. The Gaston and Northampton Health Departments will initiate new NFP programs to serve families in Gaston and Northampton, Halifax, Edgecombe and Hertford counties respectively. Each will hire a nurse supervisor and four registered nurses.

These areas were determined to be “high need” based on risk factors such as high rates of premature birth, infant mortality, poverty and crime, domestic violence, high school dropouts, substance abuse, unemployment and child maltreatment.

The federal Maternal, Infant and

Early Childhood Home Visiting Program is designed to improve health and development outcomes for young at-risk children through evidence-based home-visiting programs. NFP is one of the oldest and most rigorously evaluated home-visiting programs in the nation.

Following the federal government’s announcement of funding availability last year, Gov. Beverly Perdue designated DPH to lead the state grant application process. DPH worked with partners and communities across the state to prepare a state needs assessment that resulted in North Carolina being awarded \$1.6 million. Additionally, the NC Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), created by Gov. Perdue in 2010, will be the state advisory group for the grant program.

Community grants will become available this fall and will end in September 2012 with the option to renew for two years, pending the availability of federal funds.



*Through the expansion, more North Carolina children will benefit.*

## Faces of NFP: Jennings Garry, MS, CNM, BSN, Buncombe County Nurse Supervisor



Jennings Garry, BSN, CNM, MS

### In Buncombe County...

- 75 percent of the teens have remained in school.
- Nearly 80 percent of clients have initiated breastfeeding.
- 100 percent of clients have had their children receive all childhood immunizations by age one.

As one of the NFP locations to receive federal funding for home visitation programs, Buncombe County NFP will expand its team of registered nurses to see additional clients. The program's nurse supervisor, Jennings Garry, BSN, CNM, MS, is thrilled to get

the extra support for the county's program.

"Babies don't come with manuals," Garry says. "When you're a new mother with limited resources, it's difficult to know all the things required to be a successful parent. By growing our team of registered nurses, we can empower more families to make a healthy start."

And expansion could not come at a better time. The site has more than 80 clients on a waiting list to enroll in the NFP program. An additional registered nurse will be able to serve 25 new clients, a full caseload. Many of these clients are considered high-need and high risk, located in the western part of the county.

"The new registered nurse will help improve some of the maternal and child health outcomes in that area," Garry says. "Our goal is for every woman in Buncombe who wants to participate in NFP to be able to enroll. This funding will help us get closer to that goal."

Since Buncombe County NFP first began, more than 140 mothers and 100 babies have been helped. The program has been successful in decreasing the incidence of preterm labor, encouraging teen mothers to complete school or return to work and helping clients engage in healthy practices. In fact, 75 percent of the teens have remained in school, nearly 80 percent of all clients have initiated breastfeeding and 100 percent of clients have had their children receive all childhood immunizations by age one.

Garry is one of eight NFP nurse supervisors in the state. She is a strong leader and valued resource that provides support to the team of NFP registered nurses at the Buncombe County Department of Health by guiding best practices and ensuring the site follows the

program model. "In a nutshell, I am in charge of the 'culture' in which the nurses work, and I do not take this responsibility lightly," she says. "My job is to listen and model the proven NFP methods they use with clients."

Garry started her work with Buncombe NFP when the site first opened in 2009. From the beginning of her career, she had hoped to work with women during childbearing years. While going to school to earn a masters degree and become a certified nurse midwife (CNM), Garry spent two years assisting a CNM who performed home births. This turned out to be a transformative experience.

"I realized being in someone's home allows you to get to know them on an entirely different level," said Garry. "After school, I taught nursing until I heard about NFP's impact on disadvantaged women at a continuing education nursing lecture. I was hooked."

From there it was history.

*(Continued page 4)*

## Faces of NFP Continued...

In addition to their recent expansion announcement, Buncombe County NFP has plenty to be excited about.

The site has maintained impressive client retention rates, and also was selected to participate in a pilot project for NFP nationwide, called DANCE (Didactic Assessment of

Naturalistic Caregiver Child Experience). DANCE is a tool being tested by Buncombe NFP nurses to document behaviors and developmental milestones in infants. Garry says it has been very beneficial and given them new insights on how to better serve clients.

“I am proud of the work my nurses do each and every day,” Garry says. “And I am pleased with the way the community has supported us from the beginning. It’s great to know that people believe this program can accomplish amazing things in the community.”

### In the News...

From *The Greenville Daily Reflector*

#### Striving to Become Best Mom Possible

May 8, 2011

*The Greenville Daily Reflector* published an article featuring NFP participant Nakeela Bryant’s progress through the program and highlighting the support from her NFP nurse.



To read full story visit: <http://www.reflector.com/kj-williams/striving-become-best-mom-possible-473479>



From *The Shelby Star*, *The Greenville Daily Reflector* and *The Charlotte Observer*

#### Letters to the Editor Published for NFP Mothers

May 8, 2011

Endearing Mother’s Day letters from NFP staff ran in local newspapers, acknowledging the hard work from the mothers enrolled in NFP. The letters were printed for participants in Pitt, Mecklenburg and Cleveland counties.

To read the letters visit: [The Greenville Daily Reflector](#), [The Shelby Star](#) and [The Charlotte Observer](#).

## Community Briefs

### Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx Shares His Support for NFP



*Mayor Anthony Foxx addresses audience and media at Mecklenburg County NFP's two-year anniversary.*

On June 21, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx addressed 150 attendees at the 2011 Mecklenburg County Medical Society Annual Meeting. The topic was “The Future of Charlotte’s Economy.” During his remarks Mayor Foxx shared his support for NFP, citing its economic value and positive impact on at-risk families in Mecklenburg County. NFP’s support base continues to grow through community outreach and educational events such as this one.

In April, Mayor Foxx also spoke to a group of supporters at Mecklenburg County NFP’s two-year anniversary. He applauded NFP’s evidence-based approach and its success in Mecklenburg County. Prior to the anniversary event, Mayor Foxx learned firsthand how NFP works by accompanying a nurse on a home visit with an NFP client.

### Infant Mental Health Task Force Learns NFP Benefits

On June 24, Catherine Joyner, MSW, NC Division of Public Health, gave a presentation on NFP to the NC Infant Mental Health Task Force. The Task Force reviews issues related to the social-emotional development of children, which provided a forum to highlight NFP and its role in reducing juvenile crime and increasing school readiness among children enrolled.

The Task Force was convened by the NC General Assembly to study the “needs of young children with mental health problems and their families.” Its leaders will give an interim report to the General Assembly for the 2012 session and a final report for the 2013 session.

### Cleveland and Guilford County NFP present at APPCNC conference

Karen Carrieri, Guilford NFP nurse supervisor, and Kelly Morris, Cleveland NFP nurse supervisor, were selected to give a presentation on NFP at the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina’s annual conference on May 19.

The APPCNC annual conference attracted more than 200 attendees from a variety of professions, including school social workers and nurses, as well as health educators..

During their presentation, Carrieri and Morris gave an overview of the NFP program and its impact on first-time, at-risk mothers in North Carolina. Attendees heard about NFP’s proven model, client success stories and the public-private partnership supporting NFP in North Carolina.



*Kelly Morris, RN meets with a client and her baby.*



## NORTH CAROLINA

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Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program that uses nurse home visits to help transform the lives of low-income, first-time parents and their children.

Nurse-Family Partnership is a growing national initiative, located in Denver, Colorado.

Currently, the program is serving clients in 32 states across the nation.

For more information, please visit  
[www.nursefamilypartnership.org/locations/  
North-Carolina/find-a-local-agency](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/locations/North-Carolina/find-a-local-agency)  
Call 1-866-864-5226

## What is the North Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership?

The North Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership (NC NFP) is a public-private partnership dedicated to building the Nurse-Family Partnership program in North Carolina and working to sustain its presence in the state. Together, the organizations that make up the NC NFP, have agreed to support the program and increase the visibility of the positive accomplishments that are achieved.

Members of the North Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership are:

- ▶ The Duke Endowment
- ▶ Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
- ▶ NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
- ▶ Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
- ▶ Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
- ▶ The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

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Prevent Child Abuse  
North Carolina

dhhs  
nc department  
of health and  
human services