

Second video in Speak NC series spotlights Smart Start

The weekly videos from Together NC document individuals, families, and groups who rely on state services

RALEIGH (April 18, 2011) – A campaign documenting the positive impact of state programs and services on families and communities throughout North Carolina continues today with a [powerful video focusing on Smart Start](#), one of the state's most valuable resources.

The future of any society depends on its ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation – our children. Smart Start, North Carolina's nationally-recognized early childhood system, served 124,000 children in child care in 2010 alone. This week's video highlights the services provided through Wake County Smart Start at the Lucy Daniels Center in Cary, which focuses on helping young children achieve emotionally healthy lives.

These critical services at risk because legislators are considering millions of dollars in cuts to Smart Start and other vital early childhood programs such as More at Four. The House budget proposals released last week utterly dismantle these state programs, detailing direct cuts of 20% or \$37 million for Start Start. Through the budget special provisions, the proposed cuts would also ban all services not directly related to child care, including many of the services provided by the Lucy Daniels Center.

"We say that our children are our future," says Donald Rosenblitt, Executive Director of the Lucy Daniels Center. "But if we say that, then that's where our support needs to go."

The video is the second in a series produced by Together NC. The videos highlight North Carolina residents who benefit from vital public investments. The videos are available on the new [Speak NC](#) website. [Speak NC](#) aims to show the human impact of state programs and services that touch thousands of North Carolinians every year.

Each Monday, [Speak NC](#) will post a new video that documents how an individual, family, or group of people benefits from various state services. Many of these services are at risk of severe cuts, as state legislators meet at the General Assembly and strategize how to balance the state budget.

"Missing from our state budget debate was a real sense of how state services impact real people, their families, and communities amidst all the numbers," said Louisa Warren, a coordinator of Together NC. "Speak NC is about changing that and bringing forth the voices of North Carolinians to speak for themselves about how public investments have enriched their lives and paved the way for economic opportunity."

Together NC invites citizens to watch the stories on [Speak NC](#) and share them with friends, family, and local legislators to demonstrate how many of these programs provide crucial aid to families and bolster local economies. Visit Speak NC at www.speaknc.org

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Together NC is a collection of more than 115 non-profit organizations, service providers, and professional associations who have come together to promote wise choices for shared prosperity for all North Carolinians. For more information, visit <http://www.togethernc.org/> www.togethernc.org">www.togethernc.org

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