

Item Title: Launch of WakeSupports Childcare Subsidy Program

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners receives information about the implementation of the new WakeSupports childcare subsidy program.

Item Summary:

Wake County received roughly \$194 million in CARES Act relief funds from the federal government to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. The County's first priority for these funds is to contain and mitigate the public health emergency. State and local governments may also use these funds to mitigate "second-order effects" including "economic support to those suffering from employment or business disruption."

In recent months, Wake County has launched new programs to address the economic impacts of COVID-19, including HouseWake and WakePrevents. This new program, WakeSupports, will use up to \$5 million of the CARES Act funds to provide childcare subsidies to qualifying moderate-to-low income households. The County will make payments for childcare services directly to childcare providers, based on household eligibility requirements. The program will cover eligible childcare costs incurred from August 17 through December 30, or when funds are depleted.

The program will formally launch on October 26, following the launch of a similar State program. The County will publish information about the program and how to apply.

Attachments:

1. Presentation