

---

## Boosting Family Involvement for Student Success: CISNC New Micro-Grant Program

---

Mebane Rash <mrash@ednc.org>  
To: Mebane Rash <mrash@ednc.org>

Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 1:54 PM



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Kelly Webb, VP of External Affairs  
Communities In Schools of North Carolina  
**Cell:** 919-371-8480 **Email:** [kwebb@cisnc.org](mailto:kwebb@cisnc.org)

### Communities In Schools of N.C. Debuts New Tools to Enhance Parent and Family Engagement

*WellCare of North Carolina to Fund Micro-Grant Program for CISNC Affiliates*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., AUG. 8, 2024** – Communities In Schools of North Carolina (CISNC) announced today a new micro-grant program to enhance parent and family engagement across its affiliate network during the 2024-25 academic year. The \$75,000 program targets affiliates in high-risk areas, supporting the roll out of innovative new tools to deepen parent engagement and student outcomes..

Supported by WellCare of North Carolina, a Medicaid health plan and a [Centene Corporation](#) (NYSE: CNC) company, grants will be awarded to affiliates based on their interest and capacity to implement new research- and evidence-based engagement strategies built specifically for Communities In Schools in North Carolina. Strategies will include crucial areas, such as school climate for parents, attendance, sense of belonging, support of academic success, and school communication. Applications for the micro-grants will open in September.

"We're excited to introduce enhanced tools that will equip the CIS Network to advance positive student outcomes across our state," said Jill Cox, President and CEO of Communities In Schools of North Carolina. "We know that parent and family involvement is the cornerstone of better academic performance, fewer disciplinary issues, and lower rates of high school dropout and we're pleased to partner with WellCare to support these goals."

"We are excited to build a partnership with Communities In Schools of North Carolina for the 2024-25 school year. Our goal is to strengthen parent and family engagement in schools across its network," said Shaune Lancit, director, community engagement, WellCare of North Carolina. "At WellCare, we believe that fostering strong family and community connections is vital to student success. This \$75,000 investment will help CISNC provide students and families innovative, research-based strategies to create supportive and engaging environments, ultimately leading to better educational outcomes for students throughout North Carolina."

CISNC announced the new tools during its 2024 Annual Impact Conference at the Harris Conference Center in Charlotte, N.C., where the organization trained staff from across the state on the new parent engagement strategies and other tools including Check & Connect, Restorative Practices, FAFSA completion, and Youth Mental Health First Aid. .

### **About Communities In Schools of North Carolina**

Working directly in schools across the state, Communities In Schools builds relationships with students to empower them to stay in school and achieve in life. CISNC specialists walk alongside students, families, and educators to connect students with evidence-based and research-informed interventions, employer engagement opportunities, juvenile reentry services, and community resources to empower them to learn, thrive, and power the future. In 2022-23 the CIS Network of 18 affiliated organizations in North Carolina served more than 135,000 students. 98% of seniors served by the CIS Network graduated; 96% of k-11 students were promoted. Learn more at [www.cisnc.org](http://www.cisnc.org).

### **About WellCare of North Carolina**

Headquartered in Raleigh, WellCare of North Carolina provides government-sponsored managed care services to families, children, seniors, and individuals with complex needs primarily through Medicaid as one of the state's Medicaid Prepaid Health Plans (WellCare of North Carolina), Marketplace (WellCare of North Carolina by Celtic Insurance Company), Medicare Advantage (Wellcare), and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Wellcare). WellCare of North Carolina is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. For more information, visit [www.WellCareNC.com](http://www.WellCareNC.com).

### **About Centene Corporation**

[Centene Corporation](http://www.centene.com), a Fortune 500 company, is a leading healthcare enterprise that is

committed to helping people live healthier lives. The Company takes a local approach – with local brands and local teams – to provide fully integrated, high-quality and cost-effective services to government-sponsored and commercial healthcare programs, focusing on under- insured and uninsured individuals. Centene offers affordable and high-quality products to nearly 1 in 15 individuals across the nation, including Medicaid and Medicare members (including Medicare Prescription Drug Plans) as well as individuals and families served by the Health Insurance Marketplace and the TRICARE program. The Company also contracts with other healthcare and commercial organizations to provide a variety of specialty services focused on treating the whole person. Centene focuses on long-term growth and value creation as well as the development of its people, systems and capabilities so that it can better serve its members, providers, local communities and government partners. Centene uses its investor relations website to publish important information about the Company, including information that may be deemed material to investors. Financial and other information about Centene is routinely posted and is accessible on Centene's investor relations website, <http://investors.centene.com>