The North Dakota State University Extension Service and the North Dakota Department of Human Services - Children and Family Services partner to provide a system of parent education delivery for each of the eight regions in the state.

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**At a Glance**
- Type of Members: Extension Service-based
- Network Annual Budget: Coordination and Support is provided in-kind by NDSU Extension Service
- Pass-Thru Annually: $350,000
- Membership Dues: No
- Target Population: Parents of children 0-18
- Network Structure: Operated by a government department: NDSU Extension Service
- Impetus for Network Creation: Started by government

**Service Areas**
- Parent Education
- Parent Leadership Development
- Resource and Referral
**Highlights**

- One of the programs provided by the is Gearing Up for Kindergarten, developed in 2006 by NDSU Extension Service specialists and Parent Resource Center coordinators to assist parents and their children in preparing for the transition to kindergarten.

- The program helps families enhance school readiness, increase awareness of child needs, gain parent education, improve parent involvement in school, and build partnership among home, school, and community.

- The cost of Gearing Up for Kindergarten is $350 per family versus the $1,350 cost of remedial services per student later on.

**Outcomes**

- From an evaluation of program participants:
  - 88% indicated the program helped them improve their parenting skills
  - 89% indicated the program helped them reach their goals for their family and themselves

- Data from the Gearing Up for Kindergarten program:
  - Parents participating in the program showed significant increases in their knowledge levels and ability to prepare their child for the school experience across 10 indicators of knowledge related to school readiness.
  - Children participating in the program showed 2x higher gains in basic academic skills, higher gains in social skill development, and 2x higher gains in emotional skill development.