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PRESS RELEASE

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Nonprofit report by State Auditor Ralph Campbell submitted to Legislative, Executive officials

RALEIGH _ A new report detailing grants to nonprofit organizations by state agencies in the last year has been delivered to the Legislature and Executive branch officials by State Auditor Ralph Campbell.

The annual report catalogues all grants made by state agencies to nonprofit organizations like Smart Start partnerships, economic development groups and community service agencies between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003. Legislators last year set a January 31 deadline for compiling the report as part of an effort to increase oversight of nonprofit agencies. Auditors met that deadline, but submitted a revised report Monday after one agency submitted late information.

The report, which is compiled each year by the Office of the State Auditor, comes from records of the State Budget Office and individual agencies. The report, however, is not an audit; and the Office of the State Auditor does not certify the submitted information for either completeness or accuracy.

Legislators, in an effort to tighten oversight of grants to nonprofits, required agencies to submit their list of grants to the Office of the State Auditor by October 31. Most met the deadline, but a few did not. A schedule indicating which agencies met the deadline is included with the report.

"We have met our legal obligation to submit the report, but that is just a beginning for us in trying to help keep a closer watch on nonprofit grants," Campbell said. "We've already added a Nonprofits Specialist to our staff and will be continuing our efforts to make sure that taxpayers' money is fully accounted."

The report is the first produced since the Office of the State Auditor created a dedicated position to deal with nonprofit grants and nonprofit agencies. Angela Gunn, a five-year veteran of the Office of the State Auditor, began working as the Nonprofits Specialist late last year. She will keep track of audits filed by nonprofit agencies and help them to meet state reporting requirements.



State law requires nonprofit agencies receiving \$300,000 or more from the state each year to file an audit report with the agency making the grant and the Office of the State Auditor. A new database will help auditors keep track of those audit reports and the nonprofits required to file them. Nonprofit groups receiving from \$15,000 to \$300,000 are required to file a sworn statement on outlining revenues and expenditures.

A new web site in the Office of the State Auditor will help nonprofit organizations meet their obligations, and allow the public to see what grants were approved by the state. The new site is available from the home page of the Office of the State Auditor at www.ncauditor.net. The "Nonprofits" navigation button will take nonprofit organizations to the regulations and forms they are required to file. On the same page are the annual reports on State Aid to Private Organizations. Those grant reports are posted in Excel so they can be searched and sorted on most home or business computers.

In addition to the web posting of the report, printed copies can be obtained by filing a request under the Audits section of the web site or by calling the Office of the State Auditor at 919-807-7500.