

FY2024 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

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|--|--|---|
| Organization Name: | The Christine Avery Learning Center | |
| Project Name: | Facilitating Holistic Education; Facilitating Whole Families-Phase Two | |
| Reporting Quarter: (Check one) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024) |

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

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| Quarter 1 | <p>We currently have one curriculum specialist who assists the classrooms with curriculum alignment. She is meeting weekly with each classroom lead teacher to discuss lesson planning. The meetings help the classrooms align the lessons with the monthly themes. The curriculum specialist is also assisting the classrooms with assessing the learning of the students. We have one child advocate (behavior specialist). She helps the classrooms with behavior management. Her work with the classrooms also consists of helping the lead teachers develop and implement social-emotional activities within the classroom. Our child advocate also assists in finding and connecting needed resources for the students and their families. 50% of the funds drawn for the first quarter were to help with the salaries and benefits of these two positions. Our early learning sites (both Hill Street and St. Mark) employ a total of 5 lead teachers 5 assistant teachers and 3 floaters (who are part-time to help cover wrap-around in the afternoons). The remaining 50% of the funds requested for the quarter were given to the staff in the classrooms to help them get their pay to a living wage. Unfortunately, when we submitted the grant, the living wage was close to 19.00/hr. Since then, the living wage has increased to \$20.10/hr which will cause us not to be able to give each staff a living wage, but close to it.</p> |
| Quarter 2 | <p>Our Child Advocate (Behavior Specialist) continue to direct families to resources that not only help with the success of their child in our early learning program, but also help families who have the desire to receive services for the entire family (parenting classes, or family therapy) connected to the right resource. To date, we have had three family events that were well attended. Our Parent/Teacher conference day resulted in 95% of our families attending the conferences. These amazing results are due to the staff building relationships and staying in constant contact with our families. Our second family engagement event was a Thanksgiving luncheon where 82% of our families were present. The families sat and ate with their child at the center. The uniqueness is that the teachers and other CWA staff were at the tables with some of the families eating and connecting as a community. The third family event took place near the end of December. A large donation was provided to our families from Salvation Army for Christmas. The families were able to come to the center and "shop for free," for needs for their children. Fourteen staff received the bonuses that were appropriated for them to get them close to the living wage as possible. As stated previously. When we first wrote this grant to get staff living wage pay, the living wage was \$19/hr. Since that time it has increased to over \$20/hr. We, however had been able to maintain our staff with no turnover this quarter or last quarter.</p> |

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| Quarter 3 | <p>We gave all staff supplemental bonuses to help equal living wage pay. The total number of staff receiving bonuses were 14. Our Behavior Specialist(aka: Child Advocate) continues to work with the families, children, and staff. She connects the families with needed resources. Resources families are receiving are family counseling, individual counseling,department of social services connections to assist with transportation, utility costs, and rent. Five of our families were connected with these resources. The children (15) are connected with speech therapists, occupational therapists, behavior therapists. Currently 5 additional students are receiving assessments for additional services. One familiy engagement even took place (kindergarten registration). 2 charter schools as well as Asheville City and Buncombe County School systems participated in the event. Our curriculum specialist created a packet for the event. Included were things families could do to help prepare their child academically for kindergarten. The child advocate does mindfulness meditation in each of the classrooms each week. In addition she works with the teachers on ways to implement conscious discipline into the classroom. Our retention rate holds steady at 99%. Bonuses to help with the living wage helps keep the staff constant.</p> |
| Quarter 4 | |

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Progress toward annual goals

| Measure | Annual Goal | Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter | | | | Progress toward Annual Goal |
|--|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | |
| % of staff earning a living wage | 100% | 24% | 17% | 30% | | 71% |
| # of staff earning a quarterly bonus | 17 | 4 | 13 | 14 | | 31 |
| # of staff members attending at least 2 training courses | 20 | 5 | 13 | 14 | | 32 |
| # of family workshops held | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 4 |

Comments:

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

| Spending Category | Starting Budget | Total Spending (Enter Data) | | | | Amount Remaining |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 | |
| Personnel | \$ 223,060 | \$ 80,000 | \$ 80,000 | \$ 40,000 | | \$ 23,060 |
| Travel/Training | \$ 38,000 | | | \$ 10,000 | | \$ 28,000 |
| Technology | \$ 28,500 | | \$ 28,100 | | | \$ 400 |
| Curriculum/Assessments | | | | | | \$ - |
| Licensing/Dues | | | | | | \$ - |
| Nutrition | | | | | | \$ - |
| Transportation | | | | | | \$ - |
| Supplies/Materials | | | | | | \$ - |
| Building Maintenance/Repair | | | | | | \$ - |
| Rent/Occupancy/Utilities | | | | | | \$ - |
| Furniture | | | | | | \$ - |
| Playground/Outdoor space | | | | | | \$ - |
| Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage | | | | | | \$ - |
| Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance, | | | | | | \$ - |
| Other - retirement startup for staff/administrators | \$ 21,900 | | \$ 21,900 | | | \$ - |
| Total | \$ 311,460 | \$ 80,000 | \$ 130,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ - | \$ 51,460 |

Comments: