

# BUNCOMBE COUNTY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING

## Project Spotlight



To promote a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts, Buncombe County invested federal funds into projects like this one.

### Project

### Supporting Early Head Start Families With Flexible Extended Care

### Lead Organization



### Award Amount

**\$419,309**

### Project Dates

**August 2021 – June 2023**






### Impact Area

**Education Assistance: Early Learning**

## How the Funds Were Used

Verner Center for Early Learning used this funding to accomplish the primary project goals of increasing the number of families able to access Early Head Start (EHS) programming, increase the length of attendance of children participating in EHS, and improving family progress towards their own goals and impact on their employment. The project accomplished these goals by employing teachers, Family Advocates and Early Childhood Specialists to facilitate the project, extending EHS program by 3.5 hours per day, having Family Advocates meet with families at least twice per school year to perform a Family Needs Assessment, and partnering with community organizations for enrollment and participant referrals.

## Results

-  **41** service recipients (children)
-  **58%** of enrolled Early Head Start (EHS) families utilized extended hours
-  **83%** average daily attendance of EHS participants
-  **31** EHS families met goals set towards obtaining or furthering employment
-  **22** students participated in tutoring programs



***“The COVID pandemic disproportionately affected Black and Hispanic communities and workers in low-wage and/or underemployed positions. By extending flexible hours and reducing family childcare costs (and the difficult decisions that families must make around childcare entered the workforce more often, had more stable employment, and obtained better wages.”***

***-Marcia Whitney, Verner President & CEO***

For a complete listing of Buncombe County's American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund investments, visit [www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding](http://www.buncombecounty.org/recoveryfunding).