

## Irene Wortham Early Learning Center

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*FY 2017 Buncombe County Community  
Funding*

### ***Irene Wortham Center***

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# Application Form

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## Project Name\*

Name of Project

Irene Wortham Early Learning Center

## Amount Requested\*

Amount Requested

\$30,000.00

## Service Area\*

**Which Commissioner Districts are served by this program?**

Access a map of Buncombe County Commissioner districts [here](#).

District 1

District 2

District 3

## Which county sustainability goal aligns best with the goals of this project?\*

Based on the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan, select a Category, Goal & Objective that align with the focus of the project and the specific results that will be achieved.

Access the Buncombe County Sustainability Plan [here](#).

Community > Educational Resources that Match the Needs of the Community > Expand quality and quantity of early childhood development programs

## If applicable, select a second sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

**Result 2 is optional** - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal & Objective.

Community > Educational Resources that Match the Needs of the Community > Promote programs that supplement equitable educational opportunities for all ages

## If applicable, select a third sustainability goal that aligns with project goals.

**Result 3 is optional** - Select if project aligns with more than one Sustainability Category, Goal & Objective.

## ***Project Description***

### **Project Description\***

#### **Description of Project**

The Early Learning Center is a NC Five-Star Rated Developmental Day program that serves children with and without disabilities, who are six-weeks to five-years-old, in an inclusive learning environment. The Center offers on-site physical, occupational and speech therapy. Approximately, 40% of the children served have disabilities and 60% are typically developing. On average, ninety percent (90%) live in low-income households.

The Center works in collaboration with the Child Development Service Agency to plan therapy services for children six-weeks to three-years-old as part of the child's Individual Education Plan. A contractual agreement with Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools supports therapy services for children three to five-years-old.

The mission of the Center is to ensure that at-risk children with and without disabilities receive a highquality education and necessary therapeutic services.

### **How many people will this project serve?\***

State the number of individuals or households in Buncombe County that will be served by this project. Also state the number of people that will experience the desired result. For example, if dropout prevention services are being delivered to 100 students, how many will successfully graduate from high school?

40 children with developmental disabilities and 62 typically developing children who live in low-income households will be served by this program.

Children with disabilities demonstrate at least one (1) new skill after receiving therapy services: Speech and language:learn to communicate with others.Gross and motor:learn skills like sitting, standing, walking, running and eating on their own or with aide.Social and behavioral:teach relationship building and responding to others needs.

Children who are typically developing will demonstrate all developmental skills or age-specific tasks assigned within their designated age range.When we refer to typical developmental skills, we mean skills like: gross motor, fine motor, language,cognitive, and social skills.

Additonally, all children will demonstrate an attendance rate of 85% during the school year.

### **Describe the people this project will serve.\***

Characterize the demographics of the project's target population in terms such as age, gender, income, race, ethnicity, geographic area, etc. Include information about method of referral/recruitment of the target population.

Children with developmental delays/challenges (ages 6-weeks to 5-years-old) and their families and children who are typically developing (six-weeks to 5-years-old), living in poverty.

Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools work in partnership to identify and help fund services for children ages 3 to 5-years-old. Additionally, we collaborate with Buncombe County Health Nurse, NC TEACCH, Family Preservation, The Sunshine Project, Buncombe County Child Development Services, Mission

Hospital and Buncombe County Department of Social Services and Buncombe Partnership for Children to identify and provide services for children in need in our community.

### **What key steps will you take to achieve the results of this project?\***

Describe the core elements of your implementation plan, including milestones that will take place within the funding timeframe.

Key steps to achieve the results for our year-round program are:

1)Providing classrooms and play areas that are fully handicapped accessible; 2)Implementing curriculum that provides developmentally appropriate activities for children; 3)Staff maintaining individual portfolios on children who are typically developing and document progress quarterly using the Ages and Stages

Assessment tools;

4) Teachers and staff utilizing their formal tools to set goals and track progress for children with special needs; 5)Providing training opportunities for teachers to ensure a high level of qualifications in the classroom;

6) Maintaining low ratios of staff to children in classrooms.

### **Describe the evidence of success that backs this project's approach.\***

What evidence of success (i.e. evidence-based research, practice model, accreditation, industry standards, and/or other framework) are you using as a basis for your project design?

The practice of inclusive developmental preschool and child care programs are gaining tremendous support in the academic community.

Easter Seals' research shows that children with disabilities significantly benefit from receiving appropriate care alongside their non-disabled peers. Typically developing children serve as role models from

whom children with disabilities learn age-appropriate communication and social behaviors. The benefit to

children without disabilities is that they learn to understand and accept differences. Additionally, the experience exposes children to what they will experience later in life.

Furthermore, Early Education experts observe that when children are young enough, it is difficult to distinguish between a typically developing child and one with either a learning or physical disability. Preschool age children of all abilities enjoy the same activities and connect to one another in similar ways.

### **Describe your data collection, tracking, and reporting procedures.\***

Explain your methods for documenting project, service and client information. Include a description of any software or other tools utilized.

Evidence-Based pre and post assessments are used for all students. For children with disabilities, therapists use a variety of tests/assessments to determine developmental progress and help develop and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to assign services and set goals. Therapists record weekly notes and the

IEP is reviewed annually. Teachers use the Ages and Stages developmental screening to track the progress in a classroom setting.

For typically developing students, teachers use the Ages and Stages developmental screening to follow the progress of children. The screening is made up of 21 age-specific evals that identify if children are meeting age appropriate developmental milestones or are in need of special education services. Children are evaluated at ages 2 and 4-months, then in 4-month intervals until age 5.

### **Explain your technological resources and capacity.\***

Explain your current technological strengths and barriers and how this impacts your ability to track data and report outcomes. Who is responsible for adaptation and use of technology within your organization?

The Early Learning Center utilizes Teaching Gold Strategies online monitoring platform to help teachers and therapist to be more effective in developing and tracking their assessments of children served.

Additionally, Irene Wortham Center maintains an organizational technology and system plan that is designed to address security, confidentiality, backup policies, assistive technology, disaster recovery preparedness and virus protection. This is in order to provide support for information management and performance improvement related decision for service delivery and business function activities.

## **Organizational Profile**

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### **How does the proposed project support your mission and strategic plan?\***

State your mission and the date of your most recent strategic plan, and explain how the proposed project helps advance your organizational goals.

The Irene Wortham Center provides comprehensive, quality residential and day services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and/or socioeconomic challenges. Our most recent strategic plan will be completed this fiscal year. The Board of Directors will be working on a new plan at the start of this calendar year.

For Buncombe County families living in poverty or who have a child with disabilities, finding and affording quality preschool services is a significant issue and one that dramatically influences the finances and quality of life for all family members.

For these children, the lack of quality and affordable preschool means that they are missing the critical, physical, intellectual and social experiences necessary to properly prepare for Kindergarten.

Irene Wortham truly believes that our high-quality inclusive preschool program is the most effective educational intervention, yielding exceptionally high rewards, for the children we serve.

### **What expertise/accomplishments do you have that are relevant to the proposed project?\***

List your organization's strengths as well as accomplishments from the past 3 years that position the organization to be successful with the proposed project.

The Early Learning Center has cared for over 500 children and provided over 7200 hours of therapy in the past three years. The Center continues to maintain a NC Five Star Rating and has demonstrated high standards of health and safety for the children and families we serve.

Our community partners continue to regard us a center for excellence in providing specialized services to children with disabilities and children living in poverty. The Irene Wortham Center has been a fixture in Buncombe for over 50-years and we continue to strive to serve our community for many years to come.

### **Describe partners that are critical to the success of your organization.\***

List any external partners, intermediaries or advisors important to your success, and describe their role and evidence of their commitment. Describe successful collaborations with these people or groups.

The Early Learning Center has a long history of collaborative and strategic partnerships to provide the highest level of care, education and therapy services for the children in our community.

Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools work in partnership to identify and help fund services for children ages 3 to 5-years-old. Furthermore, we collaborate with Buncombe County Health Nurse, NC TEACCH, Family Preservation, The Sunshine Project, Buncombe County Child Development Services, Mission

Hospital and Buncombe County Department of Social Services and Smart Start to identify and provide services for children in need in our community.

## ***Financial Information***

### **Nonprofit financial assurance requirements:**

Financial statements, prepared using a recognizable basis of accounting (i.e., modified accrual) and IRS Form 990s must be submitted to Buncombe County annually.

- Organizations with annual revenues of \$300,000 or greater must submit financial statements audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.
- Those with revenues between \$100,000 and \$300,000 must submit financial statements reviewed in accordance with SSARS 19.
- Those with revenues of less than \$100,000 must submit non-disclosure financial statements compiled in accordance with SSARS 19.

All financial statements must be reported on by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

These requirements are considered minimum requirements. Organizations may submit a higher level of assurance than is required.

**IRS Form 990 - Upload Here**

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the 990 form you most recently completed.

2014 IWC Form 990.pdf

**If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.**

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

**Financial Statements - Upload here**

Click Choose File to upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements (audit, compilation or review).

IWC Financial Audit2014-2015.pdf

**If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.**

Include a statement of intent to comply with nonprofit financial assurance requirements as listed above.

**Complete Budget Worksheet - Upload Here\***

Download the budget form [Here](#).

Complete the budget form for this project/program and the overall agency. Save it to your computer, then upload it by clicking Choose File.

Irene Wortham Center Budget Form.pdf

**Budget Narrative\***

Describe all differences between current year and proposed year. List all pending funding sources with expected date of notification. Please detail any other information that may help clarify the budget.

Current year budget reflects a significant loss in the program, while proposed year budget makes up that loss in additional grant funding and individual contributions.

**What (if any) portion of requested funds will be used to support capital expenses?\***

Capital projects are defined as those used to acquire or upgrade physical assets such as property, buildings, or equipment. Please detail.

Not Applicable

**Employee Wages**

Please provide information about the wage breakdowns of your employees. Living wage for Buncombe County has been identified as \$11.00 per hour for employees with employer-provided health insurance and \$12.50 per hour for employees without.

### **Employees with employer-provided health insurance\***

List the number of employees in your organization with employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$10.99 per hour

\$11.00 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

\$7.25 - \$10.99 per hour -16 employees

\$11.00 - \$14.99 per hour - 15 employees

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour - 2 employees

### **Employees without employer-provided health insurance\***

List the number of employees in your organization without employer-provided health insurance in each wage category. For salaried employees, use hourly wage equivalents.

\$7.25 - \$12.49 per hour

\$12.50 - \$14.99 per hour

\$15.00 - \$19.99 per hour

\$20.00 - \$24.99 per hour

\$25.00 - \$29.99 per hour

\$30.00 - \$34.99 per hour

\$35.00 - \$39.99 per hour

\$40.00+ per hour

\$7.25 - \$12.49 per hour.....13 (Part-time or Temporary employees)