

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Organization Name:	OpenDoors Asheville		
Project Name:	To & Through College Access and Completion Initiative		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)	
	<input 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.

Quarter 1	<p>Tutoring continued over the summer. Since the school year began, 41 tutor matches have been made; 31 of those pairs met in September on a weekly basis. Some students work with more than one tutor to address different learning needs or scheduling challenges.</p> <p>OpenDoors revised its forms to gather more information about tutoring sessions and to provide more feedback to families.</p> <p>OpenDoors hosted two Kick-Off meetings with tutors to review revised forms and build community. New volunteer tutors were onboarded.</p> <p>In July, OpenDoors purchased AimsWeb, a literacy and math assessment tool to better evaluate the impact of OpenDoors' programming.</p> <p>A Q1 survey of students showed the following data points: --90% ranked satisfaction with tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 10% ranked satisfaction as a four --90% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work --100% felt positively supported by their tutor</p> <p>See attached narrative for more detail.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>Staff assessed literacy and math skills with AimsWeb plus to provide a baseline for growth and to guide individualized programming. Results reinforced what we already knew: we do not have enough tutors to meet the needs of students. We have 40 students that need to be matched with tutors; providing transportation and finding more tutors are the barriers to this crucial academic support.</p> <p>Tutoring ramped up in Q2, bringing the total of tutoring hours delivered since September 1 to over 300 and the number of tutoring pairs to 40.</p> <p>A Q2 survey of tutored students showed the following data points: --81% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 16% ranked their satisfaction as a four; --100% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work; and --100% felt positively supported by their tutor.</p> <p>STEAM enrichments were a huge success this fall, with 37 students enrolled in RiverLink, our internal Math Club, AMOS 3D Printing and Introduction to Coding classes, and pottery.</p> <p>The Ed Team, along with three of our most engaged tutors, participated in a five-hour training on developing executive function skills. Ann Harris, OpenDoors tutor and trainer, facilitated an interactive session that created greater understanding around working memory, ADHD, and mindfulness.</p> <p>See attached narrative for more detail.</p>
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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
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of students participating in one-on-one tutoring sessions	50	27	13			40
# of students participating in afterschool STEAM clubs	24	0*	37			37
% of students receiving transportation who need this service	100%	84%**	90%			90%
% of students reporting an increase in academic confidence, understanding of classwork, and participation in class	80%	90%^	100%			90%^
% of students who show improvement in literacy, math, and science	85%	^^	^^			^^

Comments:

*Afterschool STEAM clubs will launch in Q2. OpenDoors held a Back-to-School Math Camp for eight elementary through high school students in August 2023. Seven volunteers plus staff delivered individualized instruction.

**Of the 90 students in PK-12 on the To & Through Roster, 16% struggled to participate in OpenDoors' afterschool tutoring programming due to transportation barriers. OpenDoors will hire an additional Transportation Associate in Q2 to address these needs. OpenDoors' existing Transportation Associate and other staffers were able to meet 84% of the need in Q1 because most afterschool enrichments do not begin until Q2.

^In a Q1 survey, 90% of tutored students reported that their tutoring led to an increased confidence in their ability to do their schoolwork. The survey will be revised to also collect data on student understanding of classwork and participation in class in Q2.

^^In Q1, OpenDoors purchased a new assessment tool, AimsWeb, to test the literacy and math skills of students. Staff completed AimsWeb training in Q1; AimsWeb testing began in Q2. AimsWeb post-assessments will be given in Q4.

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Report of use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Transportation (Staff)	\$ 21,531	\$4,378.44	\$ 7,580			\$ 9,572
Professional Tutors	\$ 23,469	\$3,866.25	\$ 6,275			\$ 13,328
Multi-Sensory Tutor (Staff)	\$ 55,000	\$9,558.22	\$ 7,775			\$ 37,667
Total	\$ 100,000	\$ 17,803	\$ 21,630	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,567

Comments:

Q1: (1) At this time, transportation is being provided by current staff members as the new position has not been filled. OpenDoors is seeking to fill this position ASAP. (2) During the reporting period, four Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Tutoring restarted for many students in September and will continue to increase as tutor/student matches are being made weekly. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator is currently working 50% on tutoring with the other 50% tutoring with another program (AVL Rise). Once the position is filled for the other program, this staff position will be Full-Time.

Q2: (1) The new Part-Time transportation position was filled in September. (2) During the reporting period, eight Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Tutoring pairs continue to increase as tutor/student matches are being made weekly. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator is currently working 50% on tutoring with the other 50% tutoring with another program (AVL Rise). The AVL Rise position was filled, starting in January the Tutor/Tutor Coordinator will be working 100% on OpenDoors tutoring.



Isaac Coleman Narrative Report, Q2 FY2024

Staff made a huge push to assess students' literacy and math skills with AimsWeb plus. Several weekends were devoted to bringing students in and testing them. In addition to providing a baseline to measure growth at the end of the school year, this information guides individualized programming, such as connecting students with additional or more appropriate tutoring or afterschool enrichment activities. Many of the results reinforced what we already knew: we do not have enough tutors to meet the needs of students. We have 40 students that need to be matched with tutors; providing transportation and finding more tutors are the barriers to this crucial academic support. While we are actively recruiting volunteer tutors, we also need more multi-sensory tutors. These specialized tutors charge a high hourly rate and are in steep demand across all of Buncombe County; they can fill their schedules with full-rate clients. We have some multi-sensory tutors who donate their time or lower their rate to 50% for OpenDoors (which pays all of the fees). We could recruit more tutors if we were to pay the full hourly rate.

We are recruiting more volunteer tutors through community bulletin boards, our own and partner newsletters, and social media. We are promoting a three-part literacy training provided by Read to Succeed to improve the foundational skills of tutors who are working with young readers.

Despite these challenges, tutoring ramped up in Q2, bringing the total of tutoring hours delivered since September 1 to over 300. We currently have 12 elementary, 16 middle school, and 12 high school students who receive tutoring. Fourteen new pairs are pending and will be matched in Q3. The systems we have put in place to improve communication are working: pre-meetings with families and tutors have built trust and opened the lines of communication. Text threads between OpenDoors, the tutor, and the family/student confirm sessions and report progress.

A Q2 survey of tutored students showed the following data points:

- 81% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 16% ranked their satisfaction as a four;
- 100% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work; and
- 100% felt positively supported by their tutor.

In the survey, one student said, "My tutor is perfect for me, and I am thankful she is helping me get my school work in order! She is amazing." A parent commented, "So far I think it's helping; he has to learn to use the tools he is being taught. We discuss this almost after every session. Slow progress but I really think it's helping."

A check-in meeting for tutors will be held in Q3 to discuss streamlining reporting and measuring tutoring efficacy and to build a supportive community around tutoring efforts.

STEAM enrichments were a huge success this fall, with 37 students enrolled in RiverLink, our internal Math Club, AMOS 3D Printing and Introduction to Coding classes, and pottery. The Education Team organized a brown bag lunch with enrichment partners to explore the experiences of OpenDoors families, discuss what enrichment participation looks like with our students, and share feedback we hear from families. In addition, we used the opportunity to listen to what is working for our partners. Things that are going well for students, families and enrichment partners include enabling students to engage in opportunities that expose them to new things, which feels very meaningful to partners and students alike. Partners also valued witnessing students build confidence through trying something completely new to them and getting to know OpenDoors students on a deeper level. Areas for growth include helping OpenDoors families access physical copies of registration materials as opposed to relying on online registration, as not all families have access to reliable internet and sharing camp policies and procedures. OpenDoors will create a shared enrichment email address to facilitate registration and information sharing. We brainstormed ways to ensure OpenDoors students feel welcome and comfortable throughout the enrichment experience, such as implementing a buddy system, hiring more Black instructors and interns, making sure students know who to approach with questions or concerns, and giving students specific jobs or roles to make them feel more integrated and valued. Internally, OpenDoors will work to shore up transportation to increase participation; give families, and those who recruit for programs, a longer runway for planning; and provide staffing support alongside our enrichment partners as they work with OpenDoors students.

The Ed Team, along with three of our most engaged tutors, participated in a five-hour training on developing executive function skills. Ann Harris, OpenDoors tutor and trainer, facilitated an interactive session that created greater understanding around working memory, ADHD, and mindfulness.



In these photos, two students worked on multiplying by 5 by using 5's bracelets that they made.