



# Updates on Community Commitments

*Presented by*

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**BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



11/28/2023

# COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

- Literacy Pilot Program: AVL Rise
- Homeowner Grant
- Septic Repair





# Literacy Pilot Program: AVL Rise

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Strategic Partnerships



# Summary

Buncombe County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an education pilot program to improve literacy outcomes & reduce racial disparities in student achievement

A 3-year contract (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024) of \$250,000 per year was awarded to OpenDoors of Asheville for the AVL Rise program

This community commitment expires in FY2024, and staff is requesting direction on options for FY2025



# Background

- Our strategic plan calls for increasing literacy rates, especially among underperforming students, as well as improving college & career readiness
- In April 2021, Buncombe County issued an RFP for a partner to establish and operate a pilot program to improve literacy outcomes and reduce racial disparities in student achievement
- The RFP called for use of a proven model for out-of-school time educational support services, sound instructional practices and literacy intervention supported by a tested curriculum, and a whole-child focus including social/emotional well-being





## About AVL Rise

- Peer-to-peer literacy program based on the award-winning Reach, Inc., program in Washington, D.C
- Struggling high school readers are paired with struggling second & third grade readers, each participating in literacy lessons
- Currently serves 2 high schools (Asheville & TC Roberson) and 2 elementary schools (Hall Fletcher & William W Estes)



# How it Works

- High schoolers are trained in a Science of Reading Curriculum and tutor elementary schoolers in foundational literacy lessons, resulting in gains for both
- High schoolers (tutors) receive the highest programming dose, meeting 4x / week, and elementary school students (tutees) receiving a lower dose, meeting 2x / week
- Program also includes paid work experience, resume-building, and enrichment trips to colleges, universities & local businesses



# Students Served

- For 2022-2023, 28 students were served (15 tutors & 12 tutees)
- For 2023-2024, the program goal is 100 students (50 of each), has enrolled 40 so far

	Tutors	Tutees
Race & ethnicity	81% are Black 14% are Latino 5% are white	70% are Black 15% are Latino 15% are white
Ages	24% are in ninth grade 38% are in tenth grade 19% are in eleventh grade 19% are in twelfth grade	5% are in first grade 30% are in second grade 40% are in third grade 20% are in fourth grade 5% are in fifth grade





# Results for Tutors

- 2 years of assessment data indicates improved literacy outcomes, leadership skills & student confidence
- In 2022-2023, 100% of tutors demonstrated...
  - Improved reading fluency & reading comprehension, gauged by staffers based on a scale of 1 to 5, comparing incoming abilities to end-of-year progress
  - Leadership growth, based on staff comparisons of incoming leadership skills to end-of-year leadership skills on a scale of 1 to 5, and also based on student-reported end-of-year data
  - Increased confidence growth and feelings about reading, based on student-reported end-of-year data
- All high school seniors so far (2) have graduated on time and enrolled in college
- In 2023-2024, in addition to staff observations and student self-reporting, AVL Rise has implemented AimsWeb, a research-based system for monitoring literacy gains



# Results for Tutees



- Results are pending as result of accessing school-based literacy data and will be available in year 3 of the 3-year pilot
- Beginning in 2023-2024, elementary school student literacy baselines and improvements will be measured and reported using Lexia, a Science of Reading literacy solution



# Looking Ahead to FY2025

- Additional results data from the pilot will be shared as it is received in quarterly reports
- This community commitment expires in FY2024, and staff is requesting direction on options for FY2025
- A competitive bid process is necessary in order to continue this investment, in compliance with procurement policy



# Homeowner Grant

	FY22	FY23	FY24 YTD
County Cost	\$378,878	\$216,948	TBD
Total Expenditures	\$479,878	\$271,948	\$219,851

Budgeted \$300,000 of County funds in FY23 with additional support from the City of Asheville (\$100,000) and the Town of Woodfin (\$15,000). Same budget for FY24



# Septic Repair

## FY23

- Total Spent = \$68,371
- Nine completed projects
- Average project cost = \$7,597
  - Highest = \$15,301
  - Lowest = \$1,250

## FY24

- Currently accepting applications

Budgeted \$75,000 in FY23 and FY24



# Discussion

