

# Valley Child Development

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*FY2021 Early Childhood Grants*

## ***Southwestern Child Development***

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# Application Form

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## ***INSTRUCTIONS***

Buncombe County requests proposals for community based projects to enhance outcomes for young children and their families in our community. Grants made through the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund will be focused on access to quality early childhood care and education.

Please refer to the Grant Guidelines published on the Early Childhood Grants website at [buncombecounty.org/grants](http://buncombecounty.org/grants) for complete information about the grant program, including: Purpose; Funding; Eligibility; Timeline; Grant writing workshop; Review process; Awards; and more.

**Applications are due by 5:00 pm on February 14, 2020.**

## ***BASIC INFORMATION***

**BASIC INFORMATION – Before completing the application, please tell us a little about the request.**

### **Project Name\***

Valley Child Development

### **Strategy\***

Recognizing that some projects will use more than one strategy, select the strategy that most closely applies to this project:

Supporting capacity and/or quality for existing programs

### **Funding Request\***

How much funding is this project requesting for FY2021?

\$207,508.00

### **Grant Guidelines\***

Have you read and understand the information presented in the FY2021 Grant Guidelines for Early Childhood Grants (Grant Guidelines)?

If no, please contact County staff to request assistance: Rachael Nygaard, (828) 250-6536 or [rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org](mailto:rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org).

Yes

## APPLICATION

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS – Responses to these questions will be scored by the grant committee. Each question is worth 10% of the final score.**

### Organization\*

Give a brief history, including date of founding, focus, services, and record of success.

Southwestern Child Development Commission, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) with main offices located in Webster, NC. Established in 1972, with original funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Southwestern's goal is to provide comprehensive high quality child development services for children and their families.

Southwestern has been in operation for 47 years, primarily in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties (Region A). Southwestern had been delivering services in Buncombe County for 11 years. Southwestern also delivers services in McDowell, Rutherford, and Yancey Counties.

Other initiatives include major contract work for the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education in the area of Child Care Resource and Referral, beginning in 2004. Southwestern also manages sub-contracts for regional CCR&R work in Fayetteville, Winston-Salem and Greensboro as well as our own 13 county area in WNC.

Southwestern was approved in 2014 by the Nurse Family Partnership Program's National Service Office, in Denver, Colorado, to deliver NFP services in Jackson, Macon, Swain and Haywood Counties. This program offers intensive health and early intervention services, with a home visiting model, to first time Mothers who are identified as high-risk pregnancies.

Southwestern also provides a diversity of additional services in the community. In Jackson County, Southwestern operates the Jackson County Family Resource Center, providing parenting classes and respite programs for all counties in Region A.. Southwestern sponsors Family Day Care Homes and child care centers for the Child Care and Adult Feeding Program, as a way of providing funding for nutrition services to smaller centers and homes.

Southwestern is governed by a 21 Member Board of Directors. These Directors are appointed by the County Commissioners. Southwestern is administratively managed by an Executive Director and a Management Team of six people.

### Need for the Project\*

What is the main issue this project is established to address? What data or qualitative factors/stories are available to show that need?

Historically Buncombe County Child Care Services operated Valley Child Development Center as a support services for other county departments, specifically the Department of Social Services. The DSS has a need to have child care services immediately available for certain family situations, such as emergency foster care placements or when disruption of family occurs unexpectedly due to abuse or neglect circumstances. Also, in keeping in line with goals of the local DSS this program works with the Buncombe County Public Schools to provide priority placement to target populations including teen parents & children with special health care needs.

Valley Child Development provides priority enrollment to teen parents who are seeking to complete their high school diplomas. Valley offers weekly clubs in order to educate both teen parents & expecting teen parents during high school hours on how to aid in their child's care and developmental needs. Valley has provided credit recovery to teens, keeping them on track for their graduation deadline. One teen that participated in Credit Recovery in the infant room led into a teaching job with Valley and participation in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Program to obtain credentials. As a result of this arrangement, not only did the

early childhood field gain a passionate worker for the field but a teen mother also found a new profession that benefited her child's developmental needs as well.

Another valuable service that this center is expected to provide for the county is immediate access for other vulnerable and high risk children who might not have another funding source for their child care needs. This could include placement being authorized when subsidy funds are frozen, placement when eligibility cannot be established immediately for the identified child or other unique circumstances. The center is required to maintain capacity and availability to accept these unique placements regardless of age of the child.

## Project\*

Explain the project and how it will work. Include the overall purpose and any models or evidence-based practices that will be included. What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?

All children including those of teen parents will have a high quality early childhood program that provides a safe and nurturing environment with daily activities that are both age and developmentally appropriate. "The first 1,000 days of life - the time spanning roughly between conception and one's second birthday - is a unique period of opportunity when the foundations of optimum health, growth, and neurodevelopment across the lifespan are established" (Unicef Office of Research). Valley responds to the developmental needs of the children and to the needs of the families. These activities are designed to stimulate the social, emotional, intellectual and physical development of children. There is a balance of activities that require cooperation and consideration of others and those that encourage the child to play alone. Teen parents will be able to enroll their children as well as foster children and children in the community. We serve all children in the community, whether through subsidy or private pay. There is a time set up for teens to have a club. They choose topics of interest to them and the infant teacher along with community leaders talk about specific subjects of interest during the club time. During this time they discuss things like routines and schedules, create a schedule for your baby, feeding (formula & breastfeeding), importance of reading and introducing solid foods. If other parents are interested they could also be apart of this club, especially parents that their children have been in foster care.

## People Served\*

Who will be served by this project? Include demographics for children and families served, workforce, and/or any other relevant groups.

We will serve all parents who have children 0-5 years with a need for childcare, with the focus on the teen population and those who are in foster care in the Buncombe County area, as long as space and funding are available. We also take children that's parents are private pay if there are slots available. The teachers will be better paid as a result of this project resulting in a better quality of life and overall and an increased work morale.

## Results\*

What results do you hope to achieve with this project? Be specific about how much impact the project will have in line with the goals of the fund, and how many people will be served.

For projects requesting funding for slots, also please include:

- Total new slots created
- Total slots maintained
- # of Subsidy slots created

- # of Subsidy slots maintained
- # of teachers/staff positions created
- # of teachers/staff positions maintained

To continue to be able to serve teen parents and to keep the current teachers as well as attract educated teachers in the future. The center has a license capacity of 50 with 44 currently enrolled and one more starting next week. We try to keep the facility as close to capacity as possible but try to have a slot for an emergency placement. With funding we will be able to maintain the 50 slots. We currently have 11 full time staff, one part time staff and one substitute. We would like to hire one additional part time person and increase the pay for all staff.

We serve a diverse population African American 25%, Pacific Islander 2%, White 55%, Hispanic 18%, with 66% children being subsidized and 6 children in foster care and 2 in kinship placement.

## Evaluation\*

How will you know you have succeeded? Explain the project evaluation process, including specific measures that will be tracked.

If we continue to have a safe place for children where they have opportunities and Teens are not having unplanned second pregnancies. Teachers stay in contact with the teens, teen parents have contacted the teacher to talk about planning for future pregnancies. Teens who have completed the program have not had repeat pregnancies. We will track teens to make sure they continue in school and get their high school diploma. We will also look at teacher retention, having consistent teachers and people in their life is important in the lives of young children, especially those in the foster care system.

## Equity\*

Describe your approach to racial and socio-economic equity, both inside and outside the organization. What are some specific examples of practices that are in place or to be put in place with this project?

Southwestern Child Development/Valley Child Development does not discriminate in it's hiring and personnel procedures against any applicant for employment or employees because of race, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), age, disability or genetic information. The applies, but is not limited to hiring, promotion, demotion, transfer, lay-off, termination or selection of employees, establishment of rates of pay, including the awarding of salary adjustment and/or salary increases. SWCDC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Southwestern provides child care services to families in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Swain and Buncombe Counties and Qualla Boundary. These services are provided fairly and equally, without regard to race, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, handicap, marital status, economic status, political affiliation, medical condition or physical disability. This agency respects the confidentiality of the families who receive our services.

## Collaboration\*

List any formal and/or supportive partners. Describe their roles in the project. How will they make it stronger?

Maintaining a close relationship with County Government in Buncombe County is a priority. This includes Community High School principal, teachers and all administrative staff. Meeting with them on a regular basis has been an important way to build the relationship we have. Buncombe County Partnership for children doing referrals, trainings, mock assessments and technical assistance. MAHEC-health consultant provides trainings, sanitation suggestions and advice. WNC Safe Kids provides carseat training to teachers and teen parents and other interested parents. They helped get discounted carseats and 5 teens received free

careseats. Nurse FAmily Partnership gave support training for teen training for the teen club. infant massage, stress relief and other simialr trainigs. Buncombe county library brings books through the bookmobile.

## Budget\*

Download a copy of the budget form [HERE](#). Complete the form, and upload it using the button below.

Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses will be covered by County funds. Describe other sources of revenue, including type of funding, source, restrictions and status.

Southwestern Child Development Commission Inc. - Valley Child Development Center Operation  
Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021.xlsx

Please see detailed listed within budget form.

## Sustainability\*

How will the project continue to succeed after the funding of the grant? Explain your plan for making this an ongoing effort.

Southwestern Child Development has been in operation since 1972 or 47 years. During this 47 year operation, the organization has hosted many programs and projects to serve young children and their families, not only in Jackson County, but many programs reached across Western North Carolina. While some programs were only designed for a specific number of years, other activities have been consistently available to families. This program needs to be available to support the work of the Buncombe County DSS and other county departments until the capacity and availability of child care programs in Buncombe County can assure immediate and crisis placement of the populations that are currently served by this center.

Southwestern Child Development Commission has a long history of being able to sustain grant programs well past their initial funding cycles. Southwestern brings this commitment and energy to the Valley Child Development Center. Primary to the successful operation of this center is making sure that the program can meet the funding requirements for all of the early childhood funding streams that are typically available to a program. Offering services which are fundable from NC DCDEE, Smart Start, Mental Health and Department of Public Instruction will assist with stabilizing funding for this program. A constant goal of this center is to maintain all available funding streams for early childhood.

Southwestern can also offer advocacy for the children who are currently served by Valley Child Development Center. For example, as an active partner with NC DCDEE and a variety of other early childhood funding streams, Southwestern can make the best case for public policy changes which will expand funding eligibility for the high-risk children served by this facility.

Southwestern will continue to serve this hard to serve population. This is a priority with Valley Child Development, as well as Southwestern Child Development

## OPTIONAL INFORMATION

**OPTIONAL INFORMATION – This information will not impact grant scoring but will be helpful to the committee.**

## Partial Funding

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

## Multi-Year Funding

If you would like this project to be considered for multi-year funding (up to 3 years), what amounts would you request for years 2 and 3? What milestones would this funding allow you to accomplish? Explain why more years are needed to accomplish goals.

Southwestern would request that this project be considered for multi-year funding (up to 3 years). Southwestern would request that the funding amount remain constant for year 2 and year 3.

Southwestern has delivered this service to Buncombe County Government since 2013. During this six year period, Southwestern has not had any increase in the contract amount. Southwestern has been able to offer this stabilized amount for the service to Buncombe County as Southwestern has been able to continuously seek new or increased funding streams from existing early childhood funding. Southwestern has been able to absorb all increased costs for the operation of the facility. This has been especially noteworthy during the current staffing crisis which all local Buncombe County child care providers are experiencing.

Significant to the good financial management Southwestern has brought to this facility, is the nurturing and fostering of an extremely collaborative relationship with the Buncombe County Public Schools. Valley Child Development Center moved to a new location during the past year. The Buncombe County Public Schools moved the facility and provided all capital improvement costs for the facility move. For example, the schools provided a new playground for the Valley Child Development Center. Southwestern purchased and paid for inside requirements, such as a new refrigerator. The reality of these events is that the Valley Child Development Center is housed in a new and improved location at no additional cost to Buncombe County Government.

Again, emphasizing, that as new funding streams are available to early childhood programs and as we continue to advocate for public policy changes that will allow funding for the currently underserved populations, the need for less funding should be a reality for Buncombe County Government.

## Resource Support

How can Buncombe County support your organization with this project and in strengthening your work (related to equity, scale, or impact)?

Funding is important for us to be able to serve the population needed in a high quality arrangement and meet the needs of parents, children and teachers. We try to meet the need of the county by keeping slots for foster kids as well as teen parents and the only way to be able to do this is with additional funding.

## Scale-up

What is your vision for how the strategies from this project could contribute to a significant scale-up the overall system to collectively address the child care crisis?

We continue to never turn away a foster children if there is a slot available and in most cases we try to hold a slot for these emergency placements. We have worked with the county since taking over the operation of Valley Center to place children. We feel this is a need and could be a county crisis if this service is not available. If a caseworker has a foster child we try to immediately take them. We work closely with school personnel to see what students need.

## Other

Is there anything else that you want the committee to know?

VCDC Fall Club Syllabus.pdf

Valley Child Development is a critical part of the dropout prevention and abuse/neglect prevention in the community and at risk families are a priority. The partnership with Community High School encourages students to remain in high school while being teen parents. Southwestern Child Development Commission began operating Valley Child Development in January, 2014. Our focus has been and continues to be, to provide quality child care for all children but to focus on the teen parents. To provide priority placement for the target populations, including teen parents; children with special health care needs; Health and Human Services program participates (Foster Placement). We also agree to place teen parent's children without regard to child care subsidy funding availability and without requiring parent/caretaker payment for teen parents. Teen parents receive priority as well as families involved with child protective services for foster and kinship placement. Many teens have completed high school and gone on to take college classes. We currently have 6 teen parents enrolled and expecting 2 more to enroll whenever after maternity leave. To continue to provide quality child care the teachers salary will need to increase to retain qualified staff and to attract new staff that meet the education and qualifications we need. We would like to increase the pay of teachers in order to be competitive with other work forces in the community. Teachers often change careers in order to meet the financial needs of their family.



## File Attachment Summary

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### ***Applicant File Uploads***

- Southwestern Child Development Commission Inc. - Valley Child Development Center Operation Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021.xlsx
- VCDC Fall Club Syllabus.pdf

## Early Childhood Education and Development Fund Proposed FY2021 Project Budget (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

<b>Organization Name:</b>	<b>Southwestern Child Development Commission, Inc.</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Valley Child Development Center Operation</b>
<b>Grant Amount Requested:</b>	<b>\$207,508.00</b>

FY2021 Proposed Project Revenue	Amount	Notes
Proposed Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant	\$ 207,508.00	
NCDHHS - Subsidized/Smart Start Child Care Reimbursement	\$ 207,090.00	
Parent Fees	\$ 94,899.00	
NCDHHS - CACFP	\$ 31,391.00	
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
List other sources:		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 540,888.00</b>	

FY2021 Proposed Project Expenses	Proposed Grant	Other Funds	Total	Notes
Personnel	\$ 168,955.00	\$ 245,419.00	\$ 414,374.00	Teachers, and Substitutes. Fringe benefits include FICA, health insurance, life
Travel/Training	\$ 517.00	\$ 844.00	\$ 1,361.00	staff to attend training, professional development, and technical assistance
Technology	\$ 2,292.00	\$ 3,740.00	\$ 6,032.00	Includes telephone, fax, and internet service as well as IT support.
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Licensing/Dues	\$ 139.00	\$ 228.00	\$ 367.00	care organizations and licensing fees, as applicable.
Nutrition	\$ 3,590.00	\$ 31,391.00	\$ 34,981.00	lunch, and snack on a daily basis.
Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Supplies/Materials	\$ 4,986.00	\$ 8,126.00	\$ 13,112.00	and ensure compliance with DCDEE child care regulations.
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 462.00	\$ 755.00	\$ 1,217.00	Funds used for basic building and equipment repair and maintenance, as needed.
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities	\$ 5,067.00	\$ 8,267.00	\$ 13,334.00	space at the current location.
Furniture	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Playground/Outdoor space	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 288.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 758.00	To include advertisements, printed materials, and website maintenance.
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance, etc.)	\$ 18,864.00	\$ 30,308.00	\$ 49,172.00	fiscal and programmatic accountability of the program.
Other (please list in comments section)	\$ 2,348.00	\$ 3,832.00	\$ 6,180.00	current star license level and within compliance of all DCDEE child care regulations;
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 540,888.00</b>			

Overall Organization Budget	Amount	Notes
FY2019 Actual Year-End Revenue	\$ 9,596,831.00	
FY2019 Actual Year-End Expenses	\$ 9,878,689.00	
FY2020 Adopted Budget Amount		Our FY 2020 budget has not been approved at this time.
FY2021 Proposed Budget Amount		Our FY 2021 proposed budget has not been completed at this time.

## VCDC Fall Club Syllabus

TOPIC	Assignment
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### Baby Things 101

Introduction	3 things you want to learn from this club
Routines and Schedules	Create a schedule for your baby
Feeding (formula & breastfeeding)	Reading and Worksheet
Introducing Solid Foods	Do you think BLW is for you if not, how do you plan to introduce solids?

### Milestones/Development

Gross Motor	List 5 GM activities and how they support your baby's development
Fine Motor	List 5 FM activities and how they support your baby's development
Approaches to learning	What are activities that you can do with your baby that they will also learn from?
Language & Communication	Read 3 books to your baby. Did they enjoy it? Sit still? Show interest in pictures?
Social Development	What can you do to better support your child's social development? What are some red flags that they might need additional support.

## Health and Safety

Navigating Illnesses	Worksheet (when to call)
SIDS and Safe Sleep	Reading/Worksheet
Car Seat Safety	Reading/Worksheet
CPR and First Aid	Q & A worksheet (no one word answers responses must be @ least 2 sentences)
Teething/Colic	What are the 5 S's of soothing, give an example of when to use each.

## Motherhood

PPD/PPA	Journal entry on your feelings pre and post baby. BE HONEST!! Complete Questionnaire.
Against All Odds: Crystal Redfern	3 paragraphs on what YOUR goals are and how you plan to achieve them!
Stress	What are ways you can relieve stress in your and your baby's lives
Co-Parenting	What are ways you can better communicate and work with your child's father? Do you think that is possible? If not what are some community resources that may be helpful to your family?

<b>Organization Name:</b>	<b>Swannanoa Valley Child Care Council- Children and Friends Enrichment Center</b>	<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Opening the New Center for 170 Children</b>
<b>COVID-19 Response:</b>			
<p>Although we have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained open and have continued to employ most of our staff and continue to serve children under the Governor’s directive. Those teachers that have time are beginning to pack up materials etc. for our move to the new center. The grant application is still 100% needed, as the building is being constructed and we should have delivery to our new site in Black Mountain by the end of May, with the work described in our grant beginning soon. In addition to the equipment and materials needed described in the application will be needed, to serve the children. . As you probably know, we have already had the ground-breaking ceremony for the site, have obtained the necessary permits, and have notified our current tenant of the move, and are beginning to prepare the site.</p> <p>We are on target for the opening of the Center and serving the children in the Valley as described in the grant.</p>			
<b>Response to Committee Questions:</b>			
The Committee had no questions for the applicant			
<b>Organization Name:</b>		<b>Project Name:</b>	