Buncombe County Early Childhood Fund

Presented by

Early Childhood Committee

Community Engagement Session

Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Community Engagement Session

**Purpose:** Share updates about the fund & gather feedback to help guide future direction

**Agenda:**
- Early Childhood Committee Introduction
- Background / Overview of Early Childhood Fund
- FY2020 Grant updates
- FY2021 Grant cycle overview
- Q&A / Listening session
“Ensure that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days including access to quality early childhood education.”

- Board of Commissioners Strategic Priority
Early Childhood Committee
Early Childhood Committee

- Leslie Anderson
- Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
- Philip Belcher
- Christy Cheek
- Kit Cramer
- Jane Hatley
- Rich Johnston
- Himanshu Karvir

- Chavaun Letman
- Dr. Susan Mims
- Robert Pressley
- Mistie Reising-Cogbill
- Glenda Weinert
- Al Whitesides
- Kidada Wynn
Early Childhood Committee

• Committee purpose is to:
  1. engage with community partners
  2. solicit public input
  3. make policy & funding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

• Meets 1st Tuesdays of each month, 1:00 – 2:30 at 200 College Street

• Meetings are open to the public and include public comment section
Early Childhood Education & Development Fund

- Created in response to a well-documented local shortage of quality early childhood education programs & barriers that families face in accessing existing programs... including affordability & a shortage of qualified teachers and staff in classrooms and centers
- County investment of $3.6 million per year, with an annual increase of 2%
- FY2021 funding amount is $3,672,000
FY2020 Grants

- $3.6 million total funding for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
- $1.95 million to new grants + $1.65 million to renewing projects
- 19 different projects within 11 organizations:
  - Asheville City Schools
  - Buncombe County Schools
  - Buncombe Partnership for Children
  - CIMA
  - Community Action Opportunities
  - Eliada Homes
  - Evolve Early Learning
  - Irene Wortham Center
  - Southwestern Child Development
  - Warren Wilson College
  - YWCA
FY2020 Grants

Visit www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants to read about each project and view the dashboard.

Early Childhood Education Grants
FY2020 Funded Projects

Includes:
• Grant amounts
• Project descriptions
• Service goals & progress
• Financial info
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>FY2020 Figures</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of licensed child care facilities</td>
<td>113 facilities (including centers &amp; homes)</td>
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<tr>
<td># of licensed slots</td>
<td>7,880 slots</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of all children served</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td>Quality star rating of slots</td>
<td>1-star: 10 facilities (includes those not accepting subsidy)&lt;br&gt;2-star: 1&lt;br&gt;3-star: 22&lt;br&gt;4-star: 19&lt;br&gt;5-star: 50</td>
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<tr>
<td># of employees working in facilities</td>
<td>1,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average wage</td>
<td>$12.92 teacher  &lt;br&gt;$11.90 assistant teacher</td>
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<td>Teacher turnover</td>
<td>27% (full time teachers &amp; assistants)</td>
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<td>Kindergarten readiness</td>
<td>69% (Asheville City Schools = within normal limits &amp; above gifted cutoff; Buncombe County Schools = proficient)</td>
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FY2021 Grant Cycle Overview

GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Funding Priorities

• Funding is earmarked to support early care and education for children birth through kindergarten. This includes the following categories:
  o infants/toddlers – ages six (6) weeks to three (3) years old
  o preschoolers – ages three (3) to five (5) years old
  o pre-kindergarteners (pre-k) – 4 year old rising kindergarteners (4 years old by August 31st)

• Emphasis in the fund is given to preschool and pre-kindergarten. This is not associated with “NC Pre-K,” which is a program of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education.
Funding will be allocated for projects using the following strategies:

1. Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings
2. Supporting capacity and/or quality for existing programs
3. Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers
4. Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs
5. Enhancing the effectiveness of overall system of early care and education, including advocacy approaches
Timeline

January 18, 2020
Grant writing workshop
10:00 – 11:30
200 College Street, Asheville, NC
(optional for applicants)

February 14, 2020
Applications due by 5:00

February - April
Grant review by Committee

May – June
Grant awards by Commissioners as part of County budget process
Q&A / Listening Session