

FY2021 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe County Partnership for Children	
Project Name:	Developing a Comprehensive Staffed Family Child Care Network to increase FCCH slots	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)
	X	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	In the fourth quarter, we focused our time and resources on generating interest in start-up homes. We ran print ads in the local newspaper as well as several rounds of radio ads on popular stations. Although we did have the opportunity to interact with a few potentially interested providers, the feedback we received indicated many folks are still wary of beginning a new business venture in these uncertain economic times. Particularly in Western North Carolina, with the economy so heavily reliant on tourism and the service industry, many people have experienced an economic downturn. However, we trust that the foundations we have laid in terms of community-wide awareness of the services we offer, as well as the need for FCCHs, will help to create renewed interest in the coming months as things slowly begin to improve. We maintained our weekly FCCH provider meeting throughout the 4th quarter, which has become a valuable resource for providers in terms of offering material and moral support.
COVID-19 impacts:	The pandemic has had an enormous impact on the Early Childhood landscape, and particularly the FCCH providers. Many providers continue to operate below licensed capacity due to a desire to keep their homes and families in relatively small "bubbles" to minimize potential spread. Providers are also frequently overwhelmed with the changing Covid regulations and recommendations, and have struggled to implement some of the pieces effectively. In the 4th Quarter, NCRLAP announced that they will begin resuming Rated License visits, so that one of our homes, which has been on a provisional license for 16 months, will be able to receive a star rating. The process is different than in non-Covid times, and relies heavily on self-assessment, which is a challenge for some providers who are already overworked. However, there has been some renewed interest in this quarter for some providers to go through the star rated license process and be able to accept subsidy.
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	We are working to do outreach for new FCCH programs in a wide variety of places, including conversations with public housing advocates and others. At an agency wide level, for the last several months, BPFC has been actively engaged in a Strategic Planning Process (with our Board and staff), strongly centering racial equity. Consultants Greg Walker Wilson and Tamiko Ambrose Murray have led the staff and board through a history of white supremacy and internal power analyses as well as identifying vision/goals/etc.

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	<p>We are always looking for ways to improve the program and to reach as many people as possible. One way this has been important for our FCCH outreach during this quarter has been collaboration with the Early Childhood Systems Coordinator and the rest of the Child Care Resources team at BPFC, especially as North Carolina Partnership for Children rolled out funds to cover the initial cost for enrollment in the Wonderschool platform. This shared service was adopted by 8/14 BC FCCHs and we plan to offer it to all new providers. This opportunity has strengthened our planned work both with existing FCCH providers and recruitment efforts. During Quarter 4 we continued to work with our FCCH providers who are enrolled in the Wonderschool program, offering the informational sessions interpreted in Spanish as well as English, and helping providers navigate the technology aspects of Wonderschool.</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

		Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of prospective FCCH providers receiving technical assistance services	8	2	2	1	2	7
# of prospective FCCH providers attending DCDEE pre-licensing workshops	4	0	1	0	2	3
# new FCCH providers that receive start-up grant funds to become licensed providers	2	1	1	0	0	2
# of newly licensed FCCH providers	4	1	0	0	0	1
# of newly licensed FCCH slots created	20	8	0	0	0	8
% of current FCCH providers maintained	100%	100%	100%	93%	100%	93%
% of newly licensed FCCHs that enroll in the Child Care Subsidy Program	100%	100%	x	x	x	100%
% of newly licensed FCCHs that enroll in a shared services program	80%	0%	100%	x	x	100%

Comments:

We have done a large amount of outreach in quarters 3 and 4 including print media and radio ads. Although we talked with some potentially interested providers, the feedback we have received has led us to believe people are leery of opening a new business in these uncertain financial times. We are hoping that as the Covid situation continues to improve locally and nationally, the groundwork we have laid with potential providers and outreach in the community will yield better results this coming year. The ongoing Community of Practice with the existing FCCH providers has been a valuable resource both for the providers to share information and knowledge, and for us as CCR to get a clearer idea of the specific challenges FCCH providers face and what types of supports are most useful. The CoP has also strengthened the relationships between providers, and helped keep the participants at full enrollment capacity through referring potential families to each other.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 11,231	2,891.43	3,073.18	\$ 2,690.56	\$ 3,221.55	\$ (645.72)
Travel/Training	\$ 200	-	-	\$ 39.09	-	\$ 160.91
Technology						
Curriculum/Assessments						\$ -
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 390	-	-	\$ -		\$ 390.00
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 175	19.23	21.99	\$ 21.08	\$ 35.64	\$ 77.06
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities	\$ 686	162.35	161.86	\$ 155.60	\$ 181.82	\$ 24.37
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 2,000				\$ 3,129.94	\$ (1,129.94)
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (please list)	\$ 1,200		76.50	\$ 233.00	\$ (232.82)	\$ 1,123.32
Total	\$ 15,882	3,073.01	3,333.53	\$ 3,139.33	\$ 6,336.13	\$ -

Comments:

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