

FY2021 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe County Partnership for Children	
Project Name:	Systems Coordination	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)
	x	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	<p>The main project outlined in this grant, the "Business Leadership through Automation" cohort, officially launched. MOUs and data-sharing/confidentiality agreements with the 3 participating directors/centers were drafted, reviewed and signed, and a baseline assessment completed. All 3 are now implementing Brightwheel (Child Care Management System), and meeting monthly to explore this tool and fill the gaps in Brightwheel with other fiscal management resources or processes.</p> <p>Other Systems Coordination activities in the second quarter included researching data-sharing and cross-platform communication opportunities with the Common App/Coordinated Enrollment group and building an online application to pilot and experiment with this year; convening ABPPC's Coordinating Team multiple times to identify clear goals for reconvening in 2021; coordinating the bi-weekly Directors' Community of Practice (largely focused on interpreting COVID-related guidance and sharing helpful COVID-related practices); leading outreach and registration for over 30 families/educators to participate in Resources for Resilience training and receive free tablets with wifi (through NCPC's COVID Impact Mitigation Initiative).</p>
COVID-19 impacts:	<p>The directors most in need of this "Business Leadership through Automation" cohort did not have the capacity (with COVID crisis management and chronic staffing shortages) to participate in a long-term project focused on fiscal and operational changes right now. One of our three current participants is particularly business savvy already (with the other two also "above average"), so I have redesigned this cohort to be more about co-developing a coaching process (with specific tools, engagement model, etc.) that can be implemented by this director (and others with strong business/fiscal skills) in the future. Because of the strength of the participants, I anticipate the results of the post-assessment for this group will not show as much growth/savings/improvement as I was anticipating because all</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>BPFC has partnered with Verner Center for Early Learning to co-host an REI training, scheduled for February. We are subsidizing the slots to keep them at \$250/person (with the smaller cap, actual cost is almost \$350/person), and also paying for up to 5 BPFC board members to attend. All BPFC staff have been through the REI training at this point. Our new Strategic plan, approved by the board in December, centers equity throughout, leading to changes like our now having to document that we sought bids from vendors of color and local vendors before purchasing. The EC Systems Coordinator is also exploring ways to integrate more voices of parents of color into all local ECE-related decision-making.</p>

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	Continued work with Cenzontle Language Justice Collaborative, who provided "Language Access as Equity training," and conducted Community Stakeholder input sessions to gather feedback about the local Latinx community's perception of BPFC. In this quarter, Cenzontle presented the final analysis of their work to Leadership and select board members. The presentation included assets, challenges, and concrete opportunities for BPFC to better engage with and serve Spanish-speaking families. This work is also reflected in our new Strategic Plan.
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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 toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of providers engaged in CoP cohort	5	2	1			3
% of cohort members reporting increased skills in early childhood education business management	100%	n/a	n/a			0%
% of cohort members reporting measurable savings in time and/or money as a result of automation and business management work	100%	n/a	n/a			0%
# of providers of subsidized childcare programming utilizing common preschool application	6	n/a	n/a			0
% of ECE programs responding to annual systems survey	70%	n/a	n/a			0%
# of "State of Early Childhood Education in Buncombe County" presentations to business and community groups	3	0	3			3

Comments:

ECE directors have communicated clearly that projects/changes, especially those focused on long-term fiscal planning and those that include any commitment to spend more in the near future, are simply beyond their bandwidth, as they are 100% focused on COVID regulations and keeping classrooms open with daily staffing challenges, so we do not anticipate more than these 3 cohort participants. The results noted with "n/a" are outcomes of this year's projects, not expected before 3rd or 4th quarters after the bulk of support has been provided and a post-test is administered. One virtual State of ECE presentation was done in partnership with Buncombe County as part of an October Town Hall; Another to OLLI. A third, with a slightly different format presented Dec. 1, focused more on parent experience and parents' changing needs around child care during the pandemic, as well as barriers to returning to the classroom for teachers and substitutes.

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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	\$ 79,144	\$ 17,524	21,874.41			\$ 39,746
Travel/Training						\$ -
Technology	\$ 9,000					\$ 9,000
Curriculum/Assessments						\$ -
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage						\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,	\$ 600	\$ 230	162.24			\$ 208
Contracts	\$ 9,900		3,714.00			\$ 6,186
Total	\$ 98,644	\$ 17,754	\$ 25,751	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,139

Comments:

A couple large payments were made in late December but must not have cleared till January: \$4000 for technology (annual licenses for automation for 3 cohort members); and \$2,800 for Opportunities Exchange TA.