

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)
		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:	<p>The main project outlined in this grant, "Business Leadership through Automation" cohort, was completed successfully, but at a smaller scale than anticipated pre-COVID-19. We started with just 3 participants, and two were more biz & tech-savvy than our target. Then one of the three dropped because she lost 2 teachers and was in the classroom almost full-time for several months. We had to be flexible and balance our original plan with the overwhelm directors faced during COVID-19, but Brightwheel was a success, and reviewing data for decision-making on a regular basis transformed practices.</p> <p>Other Systems Coordination activities include designing and launching shared outreach for multiple preschool programs and an online "pilot" pre-k application; coordinating and hosting an REI training for EC professionals; coordinating the bi-weekly Directors' Community of Practice; researching "universal pre-k" models across the state and beyond; reconvening ABPPC to support the County's new pre-k initiative; and completing one round of teacher and family focus groups related to pre-k expansion planning.</p>
COVID-19 impacts:	<p>The directors most in need of the "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. COVID's ongoing impacts on staffing led to one of the three participants having to drop out. One of the two remaining participants is particularly business savvy already, so I redesigned this cohort to be more about co-developing a coaching process (with specific tools, engagement model, etc.). That director has provided director-to-director coaching with the other cohort participant and another newer director in the county, and will continue to do so.</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>BPFC partnered with Verner Center for Early Learning to co-host an REI training in February. We subsidized the slots to keep them at \$250/person and also paid for 4 BPFC board members to attend and 5 fully-funded equity slots. 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 has arranged Spanish interpretation for all ABPPC meetings, and is also working with local BIPOC leaders and partner agencies to engage families and teachers of color in the work of ABPPC and vision-developing for "universal pre-k."</p>
Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	

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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 providers engaged in CoP cohort	5	2	1	0	0	3
% of cohort members reporting increased skills in early childhood education business management	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	100%
% 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	n/a	100%	100%
# of providers of subsidized childcare programming utilizing common preschool application	6	n/a	n/a	see note below	see note below	0
% of ECE programs responding to annual systems survey	70%	n/a	n/a	n/a	64%	64%
# of "State of Early Childhood Education in Buncombe County" presentations to business and community groups	3	0	3	0	0	3

Comments:

Though we did not implement a universal/common application for 2021-22 (because of COVID uncertainties and tech/workflow questions), we are implementing a pilot online NC Pre-K application, with multiple partners engaged in reviewing, refining, and developing workflows for one common applicaiton next school year. This year's achievement is that all 6 programs are engaged in common outreach, with radio spots, door hangers, flyers, etc. pointing families to ONE landing page where they can see all local pre-k options and link to applications and more information, etc. All pre-k partners, plus Buncombe County & Asheville City schools Exceptional Children staff, have engaged in regular, coordinated placement meetings too, focused on maximizing funded slots, meeting families' logistical AND developmental needs, and balancing classrooms so no one teacher has too many students with high medical or developmental needs.

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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	\$ 79,959	\$ 17,524	21,874.41	\$ 18,680	21,987.51	\$ (107)
Travel/Training					30	\$ (30)
Technology	\$ 9,000			\$ 4,080	3419.7	\$ 1,500
Curriculum/Assessments						
Licensing/Dues						
Nutrition						
Transportation						
Supplies/Materials	\$ 125				143.46	\$ (18)
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 125	\$ 80	\$ 12	\$ 1	4.1	\$ 28
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						
Furniture						
Playground/Outdoor space						
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage						
Admin Expenses (Communication, postage, printing)	\$ 600	\$ 150	150.00	\$ 100	200	\$ -
Contracts	\$ 6,900		3,714.00	\$ 2,786	99.00	\$ 301
Engagement Incentives & related costs	1935				3,608.00	\$ (1,673)
Total	\$ 98,644	\$ 17,754	\$ 25,751	\$ 25,647	\$ 29,492	\$ 0

Comments:

Spending in the 4th quarter included renewing 8 programs' subscriptions to NC ECE Shared Resources and paying for the online Single Portal of Entry pilot application platform (technology line). The other main area of spending included outreach, participant incentives, and audio transcription for a total of 8 focus groups (7 with families; one with Kindergarten teachers) to get initial thoughts about pre-k expansion priorities. (Note: The technology items may show up on other BPFC financial records in the "contracts" line because they were subscription-based purchases).