

FY2022 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe	
Project Name:	Community Powered Literacy - Family Engagement and Kindergarten Readiness	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	<p>We embarked on our expanded scope of work in the birth-thru-5 space from day one of the first quarter. Strategic conversations with Verner Center for Early Learning, Buncombe Partnership for Children, Christine Avery Learning Center, and the YWCA in July revealed the most up-to-date landscape regarding PreK programming in our region. The most notable takeaways include the fact that the implementation of early phonological awareness and phonics curriculum varies from early learning center to early learning center; phonological awareness and phonics are the two primary skills young children need to learn in preparation for learning to read come kindergarten. All partners we spoke with asked about R2S providing literacy training for staff and family engagement opportunities around reading.</p> <p>In August, R2S conducted three literacy trainings, two at the YWCA and one at the Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA). At the YWCA, R2S Co-ED Jaimee Stanley, M.Ed., and literacy consultant Carley Stein, M.Ed., led a workshop with 60 staff members focusing on the importance of oral language and vocabulary development with practical tips for everyone, from the swim teacher to the CEO, to embed literacy and learning into every moment of the day with children. Stanley and Stein went on to train 26 early childhood teachers that same day at the YWCA in foundational phonological awareness and phonics skills they can practice with young children to prepare them for learning to read once they reach kindergarten. A similar version of the teacher training was also held at the CWA later in the month for 9 staff members who oversee Headstart, PreK, and afterschool classrooms. Dr. Amieris Lavender, Chief Program Officer at the YWCA shared with R2S, "Thank you again for the wonderful training you provided for the YW all staff and teachers this afternoon. Please know that your time was truly valued and I know folks across the building were grateful to learn of ways that they can support children in their phonemic awareness in an effort to build literacy skills."</p> <p>In addition to training materials, R2S also delivered phonological awareness curricula to YWCA and CWA teams, including Heggerty PreK and "Phonemic Awareness in Young Children: A Classroom Curriculum" by Marilyn Jager Adams, as well as PreK-level storybooks featuring Black characters for the teachers to keep in their classrooms and read with children. By request, R2S also purchased and gave the YWCA select books featuring diverse characters focused on social-emotional themes.</p> <p>R2S participated in strategic meetings with Asheville City Schools, Youthful HAND, Serve to Lead, and additional key stakeholders regarding the expansion of Youthful HAND's successful PreK summer programming, where R2S has previously partnered. Planning meetings brought together a network of decision-makers and early childhood educators in Asheville to discuss the importance of aligning early literacy instruction with the Foundations curriculum currently in use in Asheville City Schools.</p>
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Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>R2S was invited by two community early childhood organizations to provide literacy training for their teams that serve a large percentage of Black children in our community. We believe that when we equip and support adults with foundational skills to infuse literacy into their work with children, we will see a deeper and broader community-powered ripple effect.</p> <p>In addition to providing training for partners working with predominantly BIPOC communities in and around Asheville, we approached the entire preparation of the training and materials shared with incredible intention around equity, diversity, and inclusion. All books selected for early childhood partner staff to keep in their classroom and read with children featured Black protagonists, many written by Black authors.</p>
Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	<p>At the end of July, Ile Adaramola, a long-time R2S supporter, board member, and local business owner, was elected President of the Board. This move, along with the appointment of Jaimee Stanley as Co-Executive Director, firmly established and celebrated Black leadership at the helm of R2S and cemented our dedication to closing the race-based opportunity gap through literacy programming.</p> <p>R2S also onboarded a full-time AmeriCorps member in September. Our AmeriCorps member, Olivia Fingold, is in her second year with Duke University's North Carolina LiteracyCorps, a statewide consortium of AmeriCorps members working to build the capacity and impact of community and campus-based literacy programs. Fingold supports R2S with community impact programming, coordinating and supporting K-3 reading tutors, volunteer recruitment, and communications/marketing.</p> <p>Continuing to embrace our intention around creating a more diverse staff, R2S contracted an amazing bookkeeper, Brielle Pope, in August to assist with payroll, reconciling accounts, streamlining accounting, and updating financial procedures. Pope is a young Black entrepreneur with years of bookkeeping expertise who is currently in school to get her C.P.A.; she lives in Ohio, and we work with her virtually. These duties, which were formerly the responsibility of a volunteer treasurer, are being handled in a much more reliable and effective way with oversight by a finance committee established in August that meets weekly with the bookkeeper.</p> <p>R2S also took the opportunity when new leadership was appointed in Q1 to update insurance policies to comply with current contracts, reduce overhead expenses (i.e., eliminating expensive, unused phone lines), transfer account ownership with our bank to</p>

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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Please only include new data for the specific quarter						
Number of community members engaged through kindergarten-readiness trainings	50	69				69
Number of community partners' staff training sessions conducted	6	3				3
Number of community partners' staff engaged through kindergarten-readiness literacy training	50					0
Response rate on pre- and post- training surveys	75%	N/A*				0
Number of family kits provided	100	0				0
Number of classroom resource kits provided	10	2				2
Percent of rising kindergarteners who worked one-to-one or one-to-many with trained volunteers who are at readiness expectation levels on EOY evaluations	75%	N/A**				0%
Number of family events/activities hosted/co-hosted/supported with community partner	6	0				0

Comments:

*We had no responses on our first post-training survey conducted with the YWCA. They communicated to us that they were sending it out with followup materials but we got no response. We are opting to do in-person pre- and post- training surveys for our next round of trainings to maximize responses and feedback.

**No volunteers worked one-to-one or one-to-many with early childhood centers in Q1.

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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	\$ 36,500	\$ 2,675				\$ 33,825
Travel/Training						\$ -
Technology						\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 2,000	\$ 672				\$ 1,328
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 9,400	\$ 467				\$ 8,933
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 2,100					\$ 2,100
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (please list)						\$ -
Total	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,814	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,186

Comments:

*Personell expenses include \$1,625 of Jaimee Stanely's time, Co-ED overseeing early literacy programming, and \$1,050 of Carley Stein's time, literacy consultant who helped develop and execute the phonological awareness, phonics, and early literacy (vocabulary) trainings for the YWCA and CWA.