

FY2025 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

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|--|--|---|
| Organization Name: | Community Action Opportunities | |
| Project Name: | Johnston Preschool Classroom, Pisgah View Preschool & Toddler Classrooms | |
| Reporting Quarter: (Check one) | | Quarter 1 (July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024) |
| | X | Quarter 2 (October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) |
| | | Quarter 3 (January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025) |
| | | Quarter 4 (April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025) |

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Quarter 1 | <p>CAO Head Start (CAOHS) is pleased to report on the first quarter of the second year of providing two Toddler classrooms supported by the BC ECEDF. This year we transisitioned the classrooms from the Lonnie D. Burton Center to the Pisgah View Center.</p> <p>CAOHS staff again did amazing work to expand the Pisgah View Center license to include 12-36-month-old children. Staff freshly painted the classrooms, moved all classroom materials and then re-set up two classrooms of age-appropriate materials and supplies. The classroom serving 24-to-36-month-old children opened September 9th. There are 10 children enrolled in the classroom.</p> <p>CAOHS Family Service Associates performed outreach and recruitment activities with Head Start families throughout Southside, HACA residents and the Program.</p> <p>The two Pisgah View Preschool classrooms also opened September 9th with 14 children in each classroom for a total of 28 children served.</p> <p>The Johnston Preschool classroom opened August 26th, serving 17 children.</p> |
| Quarter 2 | See attached CAO Head Start Program Updates Nov 2024. |

Quarter 3

Quarter 4

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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 | |
| Number of toddlers served with this grant at Pisgah View | 10 | 10 | 0 | | | 10 |
| Number of preschool students served with this grant at Pisgah View | 32 | 28 | -2 | | | 26 |
| Number of preschool students served with this grant at Johnston Elementary | 18 | 17 | 1 | | | 18 |
| Child attendance rate | 85% | 82% | 64% | | | 73% |

Comments:

During the First Quarter, the remainder of the Summer program served 25 children that were moved from the Lonnie D. Burton center and served at Johnston Elementary.

Q2 was significantly impacted by Hurricane Helene and resulting impacts to children, families and our Community.

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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 | \$ 537,626 | \$ 160,087 | \$ 189,004 | | | \$ 188,535 |
| Travel/Training | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Technology | \$ 9,725 | \$ 7,061 | \$ 4,460 | | | \$ (1,796) |
| Curriculum/Assessments | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Licensing/Dues | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Nutrition | \$ 47,532 | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ 47,532 |
| Transportation | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Supplies/Materials | \$ 10,484 | \$ 163 | \$ 1,065 | | | \$ 9,256 |
| Building Maintenance/Repair | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Rent/Occupancy/Utilities | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Furniture | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Playground/Outdoor space | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage | | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ - |
| Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance) | \$ 82,257 | \$ 72,940 | \$ 20,731 | | | \$ (11,414) |
| Other -Parent Activities, Field trips, Shared Costs | \$ 43,944 | \$ 2,608 | \$ 765 | | | \$ 40,570 |
| Total | \$ 731,568 | \$ 242,859 | \$ 216,024 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 272,684 |

Comments:

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Community Action Opportunities

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Commemorating 60 years of service. 1964—2024



Head Start

PROGRAM UPDATES

Children, Families and Community Partnerships Department

1. **Hurricane Helene Response:**

a. **Supporting Children and Families**

- Family Service and Education Staff teams began making contact with all of our families and completing wellness and safety checks with each family enrolled in our Program immediately after Hurricane Helene.
- Family Service Associates (FSA's) and Teachers were out in the community picking up supplies such as cases of water, food, cleaning supplies, blankets, ready to eat meals, and getting the supplies out to families in need.
- Head Start Teams worked closely with each other to contact families, coordinate supply drops, do home visits, continue educational activities.

Family Services:

- Helped families in need to secure at least temporary housing.
- Helped two families who lost everything get basic needs met, including winter wardrobes.
- Connected families with how to apply for FEMA relief and supported families in their applications for FEMA aid.
- Worked with a church from Ayden, North Carolina to donate coats to children and families. The church would like to develop an ongoing partnership with Head Start.
- Developed a partnership with an Urban Missions group from Greenville, SC who brought a truck load of donations for families.
- Coordinating with a group in Pennsylvania that is planning to sponsor Pisgah View Center and both Johnston classrooms to bring holiday gifts for the children.

Education Services:

- During the weeks following Helene classrooms set up community playgroups and home visits to continue connections and relationships under extreme circumstances.
- Teachers completed a combined total of 296 Home visits and parent conferences between August 16th and November 24th.
- Recognizing the need for children to process their experiences related to Helene, Donna Toole, Social and Emotional Coach, reviewed and selected children's books related to natural disasters, floods and the aftermath. Now all classrooms have these books that are age appropriate for children to look at and read with their teacher and volunteers.

Health Services:

- Health Staff supported program efforts to get supplies to families.
- Staff also were available to perform child health screenings at school family engagement events.
- Health Services performed over 150 family outreach actions to obtain physicals and immunizations.

b. **Reopening Facilities:**

- Reopening Head Start classrooms was a team effort across all our service areas and involved many community partners.
- The process was staggered beginning mid-October as some classrooms were able to open before others due to the fact that they were not under a boil water notice.
- As of Monday, November 25, all CAO Head Start classrooms and the toddler classroom at Pisgah View were reopened.
- Emergency Operation Plans were required for the 16 classrooms under the boil water notice. These plans were extensive and required multiple reviews and approvals by NC Childcare Licensing and Buncombe County Environmental Health.
- Many thanks to the CAO Facilities Team for their ingenuity and commitment to installing handwashing stations in classrooms that provided potable water for drinking, handwashing, and food service.
- Many thanks as well for the support from Buncombe County Schools Maintenance and Nutrition Departments. Pictures of the handwashing stations are attached.

c. **Supporting Staff**

- Organized two listening sessions supported by Resources for Resilience the week after the hurricane. Over 50 staff attended between the two sessions.
- Hosted a Gathering for Head Start Staff on October 28, 2024 at Land of Sky UCC. Staff received a programmatic update and enjoyed time to reconnect with each other and reflect on their roles as caregivers through music, a centering practice, and a moment of silence by candlelight. Staff reported appreciation for the event and many commented that it was healing during these difficult times.

2. **Update on Supervision Incident at Hillcrest:**

CAO received notification on October 24, 2024 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Head Start that they have **closed** the previously identified finding of a Deficiency related to the child supervision incident that occurred on February 19, 2024. On November 25, 2024 we received acknowledgement from the NC Child Care Licensing Investigations consultant that all stipulations of the Corrective Action Plan of the Written Warning have been completed.

3. **NC Pre-K:**

DCDEE has paid providers impacted by Hurricane Helene based on their contracts rather than enrollment and attendance for the months of September and October. This flexibility applies to all counties impacted by Hurricane Helene, so includes both Madison and Buncombe counties and may be extended to additional months as determined by DCDEE. These additional funds will be very helpful to the overall Head Start budget.

4. **Student Checkpoints:**

Due dates for the completion of Child Outcomes progress checkpoints have been adjusted due to Hurricane Helene. The deadlines are as follows: Fall Checkpoint due 12/18/2024, Winter Checkpoint due 3/12/2025, Spring Checkpoint due 5/28/2025. After each of these

dates, we aggregate and analyze the child outcome data to review and improve program performance.

5. **Donation:**

CAO Head Start received a donation of vouchers totaling \$10,000 from GoodWill of Northwest North Carolina to be distributed to families of Head Start students. Families will receive a \$25 gift voucher for each student that can be used at any local GoodWill retail store. We are very grateful for the generosity of GoodWill!

6. **HACA Update:**

Negotiations regarding the leases for Pisgah View and Hillcrest Centers are still in process. We are hopeful that we will make progress with the new leadership at the Housing Authority for the City of Asheville. Rhodney Norman is now the Interim Executive Director.







