

FY2025 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	The Christine Avery Learning Center	
Project Name:	Fostering Holistic Culturally Responsive Early Childhood Education	
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>This quarter, funds were allocated to support staffing and technological upgrades for our ECE programs. Across the three programs, we employ 24 teaching staff, one child advocate, and a curriculum specialist. The child advocate plays a critical role in helping students manage their emotions and behavior. She provides calming techniques to children struggling with classroom participation and assists teachers with classroom management adaptations for students requiring special accommodations. Additionally, she connects families with resources to ensure their children experience greater success in school.</p> <p>Our curriculum specialist is responsible for aligning the curriculum across all age groups and ensuring that developmental milestones are incorporated into lesson plans. She offers implementation support when needed, develops kindergarten readiness packets for NC Pre-K students, and conducts workshops and professional learning communities (PLCs) for teachers.</p> <p>This quarter, the allocated funds supported partial salaries and benefits for both the child advocate and the curriculum specialist. Additionally, funds were used to provide bonuses for 20 teaching staff. Unfortunately, four staff members left our organization for other positions. We were in the process of hiring replacements, with three of the four positions filled, when Hurricane Helene struck.</p> <p>As a result of the hurricane, we are now working to reopen the center, which will require funds that were not budgeted for. In addition to the challenges posed by the hurricane, we were in the process of moving our main site from Hill Street to a new location at 59 Gaston Street. The timing of the storm has left us dealing with both recovery from the move and hurricane damage, creating additional strain on the organization.</p> <p>In terms of technology, funds were used to upgrade all Teaching Strategies GOLD accounts and add accounts for our Valley site. Additionally, we purchased new copy, print, and fax stations for both the Valley and St. Mark sites. These purchases include maintenance and toner replacement. Our phone systems across all three sites are also included in the technology expenses.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>We have focused our efforts on sustaining staff in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which struck our area in September. Due to power and water outages across Buncombe County, our organization operated on an alternate schedule. Although we were unable to provide regular services for our families, we opened two days a week to offer respite care, along with academic and enrichment activities for the children.</p> <p>During this time, staff worked to prepare our Gaston Street site for operations, as we were in the process of moving into the space. Unfortunately, our Valley site sustained significant damage from the storm, preventing staff from working there. Cleanup and repair efforts are ongoing, and we anticipate the site will be fully operational by the end of January.</p> <p>In the interim, Valley staff have been assisting in classrooms at both the Gaston Street and St. Mark sites. Accommodations were made for Valley children at these locations, with spots opened and temporary approvals granted by the Division of Childcare. Despite these challenges, all staff have continued to receive full pay, and bonuses were provided to maintain morale and ensure staffing continuity. One staff team building event was held during the holiday to continue with staff morale.</p>
Quarter 3	

Quarter 4

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Progress toward annual goals

Only include new, unduplicated data for each quarter

		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 staff receiving quarterly bonus	24	20	24			22
Number of team building trainings hosted for staff	4	0	1			1
Number of family informational and/or interactive workshops	4	0	0			0
Number of iPads purchased for classrooms	4	4	0			4

Comments:

All staff have received quarterly bonuses. The 2nd quarter reflects all staff who received a quarterly bonus.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Any budget changes of more than 10% to any line item must be approved by County staff in writing in advance.

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Curriculum Specialist	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00			\$ 38,000.00
Child Advocate	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00			\$ 38,000.00
Housing stipend	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00				\$ -
Staff bonuses	\$ 159,120.00	\$ 39,780.00	\$ 42,610.00			\$ 76,730.00
Staff training	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -				\$ 15,000.00
Family workshops	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -				\$ 10,000.00
Technology upgrades/renewals	\$ 14,540.00	\$ 6,285.00	\$ 8,255.00			\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
Total	\$ 355,460.00	\$ 88,865.00	\$ 88,865.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 177,730.00

Comments: