

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

Organization Name:	Equal Plates Project (We Give a Share)	
Project Name:	Meals for Community: Summer & Monthly Resident Councils	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

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>The majority of our activity for the ICG took place during Q1, as the primary goal was to share scratch-made, daily lunches from the Southside Kitchen with youth at Housing Authority City of Asheville (HACA) camp sites, as well as other summer camps serving youth living in HACA developments. We partnered with camps at the Edington Center, Hillcrest, and Maplecrest, as well as UMOJA and OpenDoors to get nourishing meals to their youth every day during the summer. The demand from these community partners resulted in surpassing our original goal of serving 200 youth - we ended up sharing daily meals with 345 children over the summer months. In addition, we partnered with HACA leadership to identify residents, particularly seniors, with an expressed need for nutrition support over the summer months. We delivered 4 meals of twice a week (360 meals/week total) to 90 seniors living at Altamont, Pisgah View and Deaverview. To deepen the community impact, we employed 15 teenagers from these communities to bring the meals door-to-door to their senior neighbors, and paid the teens a living wage. Finally, since July 2023, we have sent beautiful, scratch-made meals full of local ingredients to the Southside United Resident Council's monthly meetings. We will continue to share these monthly meals all year, as well as engage other HACA resident groups and leaders to see if our meals can further support resident participation and community building.</p>
Quarter 2	<p>While the focus of our ICG activity is summer meals, during Q2 we continued to engage with the Southside United Resident Council. Each month we prepared and delivered scratch-made meals full of quality ingredients from local farmers in order to support resident participation in Southside United's regular meetings, hosted at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Community Center. We were also approached for meals by the Safe Shelter, which prioritizes a consistent and safe place to sleep for unhoused, intact families and individuals high on the vulnerability index (specifically BIPOC & LGBTQ folks who face disproportionate risk factors at more traditional shelters.) Thanks to the Isaac Coleman Grant, we have been able to accomodate the Safe Shelter's need to pickup meals three times/week to offer quality, locally-sourced nourishment to the residents who stay there</p>

Quarter 3	<p>During Q3 we continued to prepare and deliver scratch-made meals full of quality ingredients from local farmers in order to support resident participation in Southside United Neighborhood Association's regular meetings, hosted at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Community Center. We also continued to provide locally-sourced meals for residents of the Safe Shelter, which prioritizes a consistent and safe place to sleep for unhoused, intact families and individuals high on the vulnerability index (specifically BIPOC & LGBTQ folks who face disproportionate risk factors at more traditional shelters.) Thanks to the Isaac Coleman Grant, we have been able to accomodate the Safe Shelter's need to pickup meals three times/week to offer quality nourishment to the families and individuals residing there.</p>
Quarter 4	<p>Reflecting on this fiscal year, Equal Plates Project surpassed the metric goals for all 3 categories, ultimatley sharing over 6000 locally-sourced meals with seniors and youth living in public housing, in addition to monthly meals shared with resident groups. During Q4, Equal Plates Project and the Housing Authority City of Asheville (HACA) came to the agreement that the Southside Kitchen would return to the management of HACA come mid-June 2024. With this transition of the kitchen back to community leadership, Chef Kikkoman Shaw, who has been the Head Chef at the Southside Kitchen since 2020, decided to realize a long-held dream of running his own food nonprofit. Chef Kikkoman took the initial steps to start his own 501c3 entity, called Each One Teach One (E1T1) and Equal Plates Project advocated to the County to transfer the Isaac Coleman award for FY 2025 & 2026 to E1T1 to support Chef Kikkoman in continuing the same project scope & community meals for youth & seniors that Equal Plates has undertaken in 2024. During Q3, Equal Plates Project continued to prepare and deliver scratch-made meals full of quality ingredients from local farmers in order to support resident participation in Southside United Neighborhood Association's regular meetings, hosted at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Community Center. We also continued to provide locally-sourced meals for residents of the Safe Shelter, which prioritizes a consistent and safe place to sleep for unhoused, intact families and individuals high on the vulnerability index (specifically BIPOC & LGBTQ folks who face disproportionate risk factors at more traditional shelters.) Thanks to the Isaac Coleman Grant, we have been able to accomodate the Safe Shelter's need to pickup meals three times/week to offer quality nourishment to the families and individuals residing there.</p>

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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
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of total meals served	4000	4266	470	870	870	6476
# of children served during summer months	200	345	0	0	0	345
# of meals shared with resident groups/meetings	600	520	150	150	150	970

Comments:

We surpassed our goal for all 3 categories in Q1, with a focus on getting hundreds of locally sourced, scratch-made meals each day to both seniors and youth living in public housing. Over the summer months, we shared an average of 80 meals/day with UMOJA youth, 60 meals/day with the camps at Miss Earl's Hillcrest and Maplecrest camps, and 123 meals/day with the camp at the Edington Center (113 youth, 20 counselors). We also shared an average of 20 meals/day with OpenDoors, who had youth placed at various enrichment camps throughout Buncombe County. (Average of 283 meals/week for youth). HACA helped us identify 90 seniors who would most benefit from our meals, and we delivered 4 meals/week to each of these seniors (Average of 360 meals/week for senior residents). We were also approached by PEAK Academy for meal support, which translated to sharing ~150 meals for youth over the summer, as well as 400 meals to support parent participation in their end-of-summer family programming. During Q2, Q3 and Q4, meals were shared with the Southside United Neighborhood Association meetings, as well as all residents of the Safe Shelter 3 times each week.

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Report of use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Staff time: Chef	\$ 9,900	\$ 7,425	\$ 825	\$ 825	\$ 825	\$ -
Staff time: Sous Chef	\$ 6,600	\$ 4,950	\$ 550	\$ 550	\$ 550	\$ -
Staff time: Production support	\$ 7,200	\$ 5,400	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -
Meal inputs - summer meals	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000				\$ -
Summer meal packaging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000				\$ -
Meal inputs - resident meetings	\$ 5,300	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,300	\$ (200)
Resident driver for meal distribution	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,300	\$ -
Teen summer employment	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,800	\$ -			\$ 200
Total	\$ 50,000	\$ 36,075	\$ 4,575	\$ 4,775	\$ 4,575	\$ -

Comments:

We used the majority of the budget for this grant in Q1 as the majority of our ICG activity involved the preparation and distribution of summer meals to youth programs and seniors living in HACA developments. During summer (Q1), we offered employment to a total of 15 teens over the summer to help with meal distribution, with an average of 6-8 teens distributing meals each week. The budget in Q2, Q3 and Q4 is being to cover a smaller percentage of chef time for preparing scratch-made meals for neighborhood association meetings and the Safe Shelter. The Q2-Q4 budget also covers delivery costs and ingredient inputs for these meals.