

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Organization Name: | OpenDoors Asheville | | |
| Project Name: | To & Through College Access and Completion Initiative | | |
| 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>Tutoring continued over the summer. Since the school year began, 41 tutor matches have been made; 31 of those pairs met in September on a weekly basis. Some students work with more than one tutor to address different learning needs or scheduling challenges.</p> <p>OpenDoors revised its forms to gather more information about tutoring sessions and to provide more feedback to families.</p> <p>OpenDoors hosted two Kick-Off meetings with tutors to review revised forms and build community. New volunteer tutors were onboarded.</p> <p>In July, OpenDoors purchased AimsWeb, a literacy and math assessment tool to better evaluate the impact of OpenDoors' programming.</p> <p>A Q1 survey of students showed the following data points: --90% ranked satisfaction with tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 10% ranked satisfaction as a four --90% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work --100% felt positively supported by their tutor</p> <p>See attached narrative for more detail.</p> |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <p>Quarter 2</p> | <p>Staff assessed literacy and math skills with AimsWeb plus to provide a baseline for growth and to guide individualized programming. Results reinforced what we already knew: we do not have enough tutors to meet the needs of students. We have 40 students that need to be matched with tutors; providing transportation and finding more tutors are the barriers to this crucial academic support.</p> <p>Tutoring ramped up in Q2, bringing the total of tutoring hours delivered since September 1 to over 300 and the number of tutoring pairs to 40.</p> <p>A Q2 survey of tutored students showed the following data points: --81% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 16% ranked their satisfaction as a four; --100% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work; and --100% felt positively supported by their tutor.</p> <p>STEAM enrichments were a huge success this fall, with 37 students enrolled in RiverLink, our internal Math Club, AMOS 3D Printing and Introduction to Coding classes, and pottery.</p> <p>The Ed Team, along with three of our most engaged tutors, participated in a five-hour training on developing executive function skills. Ann Harris, OpenDoors tutor and trainer, facilitated an interactive session that created greater understanding around working memory, ADHD, and mindfulness.</p> <p>See attached narrative for more detail.</p> |
| <p>Quarter 3</p> | <p>In the third quarter, OpenDoors provided tutoring to 56 students at least once a week, bringing the year's total tutoring hours to 815. Tutoring matches stayed consistent, strengthening trust and understanding. OpenDoors continued to recruit more tutors.</p> <p>A Q3 survey of tutored students showed the following outcomes for students: --85% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 10% ranked their satisfaction as a four; --95% reported an increased understanding of their school work; --95% reported an increased participation in class; --95% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work; and --100% felt positively supported by their tutor.</p> <p>Alongside tutoring, STEAM clubs have also expanded this spring, with 55 students enrolled so far. In addition to hosting Math Clubs, OpenDoors created classes with Asheville Creative Arts, AMOS, LEAF, Muddy Sneakers, RiverLink, and local artists Kenn Kotara and Kisha Blount. OpenDoors ensures curriculum alignment with North Carolina Standard Courses of Study.</p> <p>See attached narrative for more detail.</p> |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| | <p>In the fourth quarter, OpenDoors provided tutoring to 41 students at least once a week, bringing the year's total tutoring hours to 1130. Tutoring matches stayed consistent.</p> <p>A Q4 survey of tutored students showed the following outcomes for students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">--92% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 8% ranked their satisfaction as a four;--100% reported an increased understanding of their school work;--100% reported an increased participation in class;--100% reported an increased confidence in their ability to do their school work; and--100% felt positively supported by their tutor. <p>Based on AimsWeb literacy and math assessments, student course grades, teacher comments, and monthly tutor logs, 74% of tutored students showed improvement in math, literacy, and/or science.</p> <p>Tutoring will continue for eight students through the summer. 74% of tutored students are enrolled in an OpenDoors coordinated summer camp. 61% of tutored students were enrolled in at least one other OpenDoors afterschool program, such as Math Club, College Readiness, or a class coordinated with a local STEAM partner.</p> |
| Quarter 4 | See attached narrative for more detail. |

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Organization Name: | OpenDoors Asheville | | |
| Project Name: | To & Through College Access and Completion Initiative | | |
| 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) | |

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 students participating in one-on-one tutoring sessions | 50 | 27 | 13 | 16 | -1 | 55 |
| # of students participating in afterschool STEAM clubs | 24 | 0* | 37 | 71 | 0 | 108 |
| % of students receiving transportation who need this service | 100% | 84%** | 90% | 90% | 90% | 90% |
| % of students reporting an increase in academic confidence, understanding of classwork, and participation in class | 80% | 90%^ | 100% | 95% | 100% | 100%^ |
| % of students who show improvement in literacy, math, and science | 85% | ^^ | ^^ | ^^ | 74%^^ | 74%^^ |

Comments:

*Afterschool STEAM clubs will launch in Q2. OpenDoors held a Back-to-School Math Camp for eight elementary through high school students in August 2023. Seven volunteers plus staff delivered individualized instruction.

**Of the 90 students in PK-12 on the To & Through Roster, 16% struggled to participate in OpenDoors' afterschool tutoring programming due to transportation barriers. OpenDoors will hire an additional Transportation Associate in Q2 to address these needs. OpenDoors' existing Transportation Associate and other staffers were able to meet 84% of the need in Q1 because most afterschool enrichments do not begin until Q2.

^In a Q1 survey, 90% of tutored students reported that their tutoring led to an increased confidence in their ability to do their schoolwork. The survey will be revised to also collect data on student understanding of classwork and participation in class in Q2.

In a Q4 survey, 100% of survey respondents reported that their tutoring increased their confidence in their ability to do their schoolwork; 100% of survey respondents reported that their tutoring improved their understanding of their schoolwork, and 100% of survey respondents reported that their tutoring increased their participation in class.

^^In Q1, OpenDoors purchased a new assessment tool, AimsWeb, to test the literacy and math skills of students. Staff completed AimsWeb training in Q1; AimsWeb testing began in Q2. AimsWeb post-assessments will be given in Q4.

In Q4, students took AimsWeb benchmark post-tests. Of the 55 students tutored this year, only 36 took both fall and spring tests. Results were inconclusive, as students showed improvements on some metrics and decreases on others. To complete growth picture and to measure growth for students who did not have fall and spring AimsWeb tests, Learning Circle grades and standardized testing scores, school transcripts, and tutor logs were reviewed. A positive growth metric on one of these reports was tracked as positive improvement. No data was available for five students.

FY2024 Buncombe County Isaac Coleman Grant Report

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Organization Name: | OpenDoors Asheville | | |
| Project Name: | To & Through College Access and Completion Initiative | | |
| 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) | |

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 | |
| Transportation (Staff) | \$ 21,531 | \$4,378.44 | \$ 7,580 | \$ 6,024 | \$ 10,042 | \$ (6,493) |
| Professional Tutors | \$ 23,469 | \$3,866.25 | \$ 6,275 | \$ 13,606 | \$ 5,943 | \$ (6,221) |
| Multi-Sensory Tutor (Staff) | \$ 55,000 | \$9,558.22 | \$ 7,775 | \$ 14,026 | \$ 10,927 | \$ 12,714 |
| Total | \$ 100,000 | \$ 17,803 | \$ 21,630 | \$ 33,655 | \$ 26,912 | \$ 0 |

Comments:

Q1: (1) At this time, transportation is being provided by current staff members as the new position has not been filled. OpenDoors is seeking to fill this position ASAP. (2) During the reporting period, four Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Tutoring restarted for many students in September and will continue to increase as tutor/student matches are being made weekly. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator is currently working 50% on tutoring with the other 50% tutoring with another program (AVL Rise). Once the position is filled for the other program, this staff position will be Full-Time.

Q2: (1) The new Part-Time transportation position was filled in September. (2) During the reporting period, eight Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Tutoring pairs continue to increase as tutor/student matches are being made weekly. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator is currently working 50% on tutoring with the other 50% tutoring with another program (AVL Rise). The AVL Rise position was filled, starting in January the Tutor/Tutor Coordinator will be working 100% on OpenDoors tutoring.

Q3: (1) The new Part-Time transportation position was filled in September with other staff members providing transportation for tutoring. (2) During the reporting period, 11 Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Tutoring pairs continue to increase as tutor/student matches are being made weekly. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator is now working 100% on tutoring.

Q4: (1) Transportation is being cover by multiple staff members in order to get kids where they need to be for tutoring. (2) During the reporting as the school winds down, 4 Professional Tutors were paid at discounted rates to work with OpenDoors students; other tutoring efforts were supported through volunteers. Some tutoring pairs continue over the summer, with other scheduled to ramp back up when school resumes. (3) The Orton Gillingham Staff Tutor and Tutor Coordinator works 100% on tutoring and the organization's growth in supporting additional students with their tutoring needs. With reduced rates and volunteer time, tutors donated \$32,881 in services.



Isaac Coleman Narrative Report, Q4 FY2024

With Isaac Coleman support, OpenDoors offered tutoring to more students this year, more frequently. A total of 55 students received a total of 1130 hours, with an average of 20.5 hours of tutoring per student. In the fourth quarter, OpenDoors provided tutoring to 41 students at least once a week. Tutoring matches stayed consistent. 63% of tutored students were enrolled in at least one other OpenDoors afterschool program, such as College Readiness, Math Club, AVL Rise, or a class coordinated with a local STEAM partner. 74% of tutored students are enrolled in an OpenDoors coordinated summer camp. Tutoring will continue for eight students through the summer.

In Q4, students took AimsWeb benchmark post-tests. Of the 55 students tutored this year, only 36 took both fall and spring tests. Results were inconclusive, as students showed improvements on some metrics and decreases on others. To complete the growth picture and to measure growth for students who did not have fall and spring AimsWeb tests, Learning Circle grades and standardized testing scores, school transcripts, and tutor logs were reviewed. A positive literacy, math or science growth metric on one of these reports was tracked as academic improvement. No data was available for five students. Based on this data set, 74% of students showed improvement in math, literacy and/or science. Routine tutoring schedules and matches draw a more detailed picture of a student's opportunities for growth. Katherine Fleer, Academics and Summer Director, notes, "We finally get to know the student intimately and to know what they need. For example, with B., in first grade, we can see what she needs. Her mom had never said she needed anything but she connected with a volunteer tutor. Her sister went to college this year and her dad is in prison. It's such a process to learn a kid."

A Q4 survey of tutored students showed additional outcomes for students:

- 92% ranked their satisfaction with their tutoring session as a five, on a scale of one to five; 8% ranked their satisfaction as a four.
- 100% reported increased understanding of their school work.
- 100% reported increased participation in class.
- 100% reported increased confidence in their ability to do their school work.
- 100% felt positively supported by their tutor.

When tutored students were asked whether working with OpenDoors had made them a better student, 100% said yes. Student observations included:

- "I've been learning how to read a lot and I've been practicing too. Reading is my favorite subject."

- “They help me do Math. The tutor is really nice and he gives me choices about what we do each time.”
- “They helped me understand and read better.”
- “I have better grades and I’m more confident in the work that I do.”
- “We’re safe at OpenDoors.”
- “They’ve helped me get my grades up.”
- “It has made me happy to be here.”
- “They help me feel more confident in the classroom with my work.”
- “I used to do bad in school but now I do better with their help and my tutor’s help.”
- “It has made me more involved with school.”
- “I realize that I’m a good student now.”

Families whose students were tutored reported:

- “Tutoring is helping close the gap for my kids and giving them more confidence.”
- “It is helping [my daughter] with reading. She has really struggled and I feel like it has made her feel more confident.”
- “It’s consistent. That keeps her focused.”
- My child “is becoming more and more confident in her testing skills and how to study.”
- My son has “really brought his grades up and kept them up since this program.”
- “My kids are actually doing better in the subject they’re getting tutored for.”
- “J. struggles academically and tutoring is helping him become more confident in asking for help and focusing on his work.”

An end-of-year tutoring celebration was held, with one of the tutored student’s mom catering the meal. Over the summer, OpenDoors staffers will work to finalize MOUs with Buncombe County and Asheville City schools that will allow tutoring to happen during the school day, freeing up afternoons for other OpenDoors’ enrichments, allowing us to increase programming dosage. The coming year will add quarterly check in calls with tutors, as well as on-site coaching visits with those tutoring pairs that work in settings other than the OpenDoors office to build stronger relationships and strengthen the work happening across the County. OpenDoors has also purchased Geodes, a literacy curriculum that volunteer tutors can train with and use in tutoring sessions. Katherine notes, “As excellent as our tutors are, we need to better equip them to meet students’ urgent and important needs as they strive to meet their full academic potential. These books will significantly help students improve their literacy skills in a systematic, step-by-step way, utilizing phonetically regular words they can actually sound out. The kit includes decodable, phonetically sound books; utilizes the science of reading and the scope and sequence of the Foundations Wilson Language Training Program; and the books are engaging and fun to read. Geode books follow the scope and sequence of the Buncombe County School Wit and Wisdom curriculum, so they line up perfectly with what the students are learning at the County schools.” Geodes is for anyone reading at a K,1, or 2 level and can be used for older elementary students who are also reading at a K,1, or 2 level. Filled with information about science and social studies topics, the material also helps build student background knowledge.

Three OpenDoors staffers took a six-hour training on “Wilson Just Words,” a highly explicit, multisensory decoding and spelling program for students in grades 4–12 and adults who have mild to moderate gaps in their decoding and spelling proficiency but do not require intensive intervention.

In August, OpenDoors will host its second back-to-school skills camp week for first through eighth graders. Sessions will be led by paid professional tutors and OpenDoors academic staff. Camp will run from 9:30-3:30.