

FY2021 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Bountiful Cities		
Project Name:	School Gardens Maintenance Project		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)			Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)
			Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)
			Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)
	x		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	<p>We worked with all six schools in this fourth quarter. Our FEAST instructors adapted to a combination of in person and virtual instruction opportunities with the students with online cooking lessons, in person garden lessons and implementing the maintenance plan for the spring growing season. We continued to distribute donated produce on a weekly basis to our partner families, students, staff, and volunteers. Most of our staff time was spent in the school gardens setting them up for summer volunteers and planting crops that will be ready for harvest when students return to school in August. We appreciate the flexibility of the Buncombe County SPF grant to adjust our budget and meet the needs of each school during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
COVID-19 impacts:	<p>Due to COVID-19 the whole student population did not return to in person learning, therefore we were unable to get data on students demonstrating increased knowledge and skill related to cooking or a report of increased fresh fruit and vegetable consumption. Fewer students than anticipated were able to participate in classes due to virtual learning and we were not allowed to do any cooking or tasting with students due to CDC and school health guidelines. In place of cooking classes we were able to distribute over 12,000 pounds of fresh produce to students, families, staff, neighbors and volunteers who expressed an increase in food insecurity. Because we were able to increase our time in the gardens we were able to make sure they were set up as outdoor classrooms when students did return to in person learning, with the increase in outdoor seating in the gardens we were also able to meet regularly with school staff, provide space for classes to eat lunch outside, and facilitate garden focused classes.</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>FEAST instructors approach all lessons and community engagement with a lens towards leveling the learning field to be accessible to all students and including culturally relevant material. They recognize that not all student garden or cook at home and that these lessons may be their only experience with food, gardens, and nature. FEAST instructors use intentional language and activities to invite students to connect with the food, plants, and insects in the garden on whatever level they are at. Additionally, FEAST instructors develop lessons and design the gardens to include foods and varieties of vegetables that come from other cultures as well as the history and folklore that accompanies them. FEAST instructors also made an effort to include every student in FEAST lessons when school was virtual, hybrid, and in person. When some students came back to campus but others remained virtual, the schools checked out iPads and HotSpots to the FEAST teachers so they could include virtual students when their in-person classmates came to the gardens. Finally, whenever possible, FEAST teachers translate newsletters, signage, and fliers into Spanish or collaborate with the ESL teachers at the schools so that information about the garden can be relayed to all families regardless of the language they speak.</p>

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	We continue to meet with school administration to ensure we are up to date on the latest health and safety protocols as well as providing academic support from the school garden. With the increased need for distance and sanitation we made the decision increase our staff support for the FEAST teachers. Additional support for the gardens will allow the teacher to focus on adapting classes to remain compliant with the latest health and safety protocols from the CDC and the school district.
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	
# of school gardens maintained	6	5	1	0	0	6
% of schools reporting improved quality and function of school gardens	100%	16%	33%	50%	100%	100%
# of students served with educational programming	950	312	0	116	150	578
% of students demonstrating increased knowledge & skill related to cooking &	80%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% of students reporting increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetable	80%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
# lbs of fresh produce distributed	10,000	2,637.55	3,818.70	2,733.60	2947.5	12,137.35

Comments:

Measure 3 - Student enrolment at Lucy S. Herring(309) and Hall Fletcher(269) decreased in the 2020-21 school year and we did not hold any classes at Francine Delany due to space limitations. **Measures 4 & 5** - We were unable to collect data regarding student knowledge and skill or their increase in fresh fruit vegetable consumption during the 2020-21 school year.

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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	
Personnel	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,555	\$ 2,413	\$ 4,044	\$ 3,972	\$ (984)
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 1,600	\$ 56	\$ -	\$ 537	\$ 213	\$ 794
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts						\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
Admin Expenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -
Travel Expenses	\$ 400	\$ 85	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ 83	\$ 189
Total	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,946	\$ 2,663	\$ 4,874	\$ 4,517	\$ (0)

Comments:

Due to COVID-19 and most of our work with students being virtual during the 2020-21 school year our travel expenses and supply expenses were less than originally projected. The need for additional garden maintenance support was increased since we did not have students and families in the gardens for regular work days and classes. Travel expense - \$40.82 mileage for Jordan Diamond, \$41.83 mileage for Kim Lanzarotta. Supplies/materials expense - 4/2/21 Lowes(\$54.55) drainage ditch at Herring, 6/30/21 Home Depot(\$106.89) tools for Herring and Hall Fletcher, 6/28/21 Home Depot(\$51.71) Reynold blackberry trellis. Personnel expense - Herring(\$1,640), Reynolds(\$157.50) Evergreen(\$297.50), Hall Fletcher(\$1,579), Francine Delany (\$43.75), Estes (\$253.75)