

FY2021 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Eblen Charities	
Project Name:	Graduation Initiative	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	This quarter culminated in the end of the 2020-21 school year and the beginning of Summer Academy. Summer Academy was implemented to help students with learning loss during COVID. In the past years Mini-mester was in place to allow students to recover credits toward graduation. We would normally have around 350-400 registrations for Mini-mester but with the increased need, we expanded to two sites and had almost 800 registrations. Our staff increased from 15 teachers in a typical Mini-meseter summer to 83 staff members in our two Summer Academy sites. This number includes teachers, bus drivers and cafeteria staff. We are delighted to be able to serve so many students.
COVID-19 impacts:	COVID has continued to impact our program in so many ways. The need for academic support services for high school students has increased three-fold. So many students were not successful during the virtual learning environment and need the presence of a teacher and the normal classroom environment in order to be successful. The isolation of being home and attempting to "do school" had significant impact on some students' mental health. Having students back in school full-days in our Summer Academy program has given us the opportunity to address these issues - both academic and mental health. We hired certified counselors at both sites who focused on SEL strategies with teachers and students in the classrooms each day. Our program design also lends itself to close personal relationships with students - our smaller class size and vetting of teachers who interact effectively with students ensures a warm responsive climate.
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	Our Summer Academy program was designed to create equity in opportunity and access to ALL students. With the State focus on learning loss due to COVID and SEL (Social Emotional Learning) the importance of increasing equity and responding out of a place of inclusion and respect for diversity has been heightened through our teachers gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for students' differing life situations.
Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	With two Summer Academy sites this year, we purposely planned jointly and collaborated on how the program would be designed. Our ability to hire a school counselor as part of the program to addresss student emotional needs has been a much needed addition to our program delivery. We also welcome feedback from students and parents and use all these sources to improve our program components.

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Progress toward annual goals

		Actual Results (Enter Data)				
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Progress
# of students served through the graduation initiative	1,800	523	546	538	857	2,464
% of students successfully completing their coursework and earning credits toward graduation	92%	73%	75%	81%	98%	98%
# of student households referred to Eblen Charities for support services to eliminate barriers to staying in school	500	130	234	247	357	968

Comments:

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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 (Contract with BC Schools)	\$ 35,000				\$ 8,750	\$ 26,250
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts						\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
Total	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,750	\$ 26,250

Comments: