

FY2023 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	OpenDoors of Asheville
Project Name:	To & Through College Access and Completion
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

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>High School: We've met with 32 of the 39 seventh to twelfth grade students on our roster for annual renewals and to begin the new year together. The first ODA senior College Readiness course is up and running with six of the nine seniors attending either in group or individual meetings. Of those remaining three, one was drafted to play football at Duke and doesn't need support. The other two (siblings) cite too many extracurriculars to attend. The ODA Junior College Readiness planning starts in October.</p> <p>College: I regularly support 10 of our 11 college students, covering back-to-school needs as well as other transportation, technology, and even homework support questions. The remaining student communicates with another ODA team member, with whom they have a longstanding relationship. All of our students with learning differences were able to pre-emptively connect and plan with campus student services.</p> <p>Standardized Test Prep: Two of our nine seniors participated in ACT bootcamp over the summer, but due to low scores, most seniors are applying to test-optional schools this fall. All seniors plan to attend either a two- or four-year college or university.</p> <p>Financial: We were able to deny loans for almost all of the ODA college students this fall (9 out of 11). Of those 11, only three students have debt at or above \$15,000 (ODA's intended limit) from their entire college career to date, and the remaining students have no debt. Of those three students, one student took large loans out to start her graduate school career.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>High School: The senior college readiness class has whittled down to four consistent students, all of whom have received multiple college acceptances. Of the three remaining students, one plans to play football at Duke, one has submitted regular decision applications, and one is on the AB Tech waitlist for the Barber program. After planning to start Junior College Readiness in Fall '22 and getting very little interest, we moved the start date to spring, focusing on building relationships through enrichments, social events, and academic counseling.</p> <p>College: I communicate regularly with 10 of 11 college students. Our focus has transitioned to academic support, which means directing students to university resources or OpenDoors tutoring. We have three college seniors, one of whom is applying to graduate school.</p> <p>Standardized Testing: With the post-Covid landscape and historic test bias working against the best interests of our African American students, we're continuing to evaluate the best way to bring this program into the '23 college application cycle.</p> <p>Financial: A change in our fiscal year led to less flexibility in funding students. We also have more students attending college than ever before! From spring semester through August, we will offer students their budgeted scholarship amount of \$3250/semester. Our students may need loans to cover some debt, but we don't expect anyone to carry loans above the projected amount of \$15,000 for their whole college career.</p>
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Quarter 3	<p>High School: This spring, Junior College Readiness is beginning. The six-week series covers self-inquiry, building a college list, communicating proactively with school officials in preparation for senior year, math review for the ACT, and a college essay writing workshop hosted by one Warren Wilson College's Admissions senior team members. Senior College Readiness is no longer meeting as a group. Instead, I am following up with individual students to make sure they have sent in acceptances.</p> <p>College: All 11 college students are working hard this spring. Our two freshman are in the midst of rounding up their first year. One at University of New Orleans plans to stay and continue attending. She had a health issue this spring and grades dipped. She's working on bringing them up. The second freshman has decided he wants to go to school closer to home and is applying as a transfer to Warren Wilson College and UNC-Greensboro. Our sophomores and juniors are still building back from Covid losses. Of those, one is interested in transferring closer to home in Asheville at UNC-A or Warren Wilson. Our UNC-G sophomore is working on bringing grades above the Cs she currently has. Our out-of-state culinary and nursing students report being settled in their programs. We also have three seniors, two of whom will graduate fall 2023. The third graduates this spring and has applied to graduate school for social work.</p> <p>SAT/ACT testing: 6 of 10 OpenDoors juniors begin prepping for testing through Junior College College Readiness. Regarding the other four juniors in this phase of their career: one student is electing to do one-one-one tutoring due to her testing schedule (OpenDoors is funding this at a lower rate than typical). One student took the ASVAB to support inquiry into career paths and is planning to attend ABtech. One student reports having no interest in college--but we are still talking to Mom and encouraging community college pathways locally. One student is unresponsive, but very active in other ODA programs such as AVL Rise. With the rise of test optional schools, I am redirecting some focus into other areas, such as essay writing, because our students typically score low (15-16 on the ACT or lower). Test optional is preferable for these students and makes a stronger college application.</p> <p>Financial: No significant financial change in student population. Expect to see shift as graduating seniors commit to financial realities of college. Most of our students will not accumulate significant debt at in-state schools. We have at least one student who plans to go out-of-state. More reporting on this to follow</p>
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Quarter 4	<p>High School: We added one HS student and two MS students to our roster in June. Junior College Readiness wrapped up, with most students deciding that they wanted to retake the ACT again this summer, even though the majority of colleges are remaining test optional. Currently 90% of our juniors are either employed or doing an internship, or in many cases, both. Our seniors, with one exception, are enrolled in either community college or college programs for the fall. We are excited that our high school graduation numbers and college enrollment numbers are improvements over local rates. For example, at Asheville High School, only 75% of Black students graduated and of those, only 57% enrolled in college. (Data from NC Schools Report Cards.)</p> <p>College: Two of our three out of state students, including one freshman, are moving back to in-state schools due to cost and family connections. One of the three seniors graduated from Barton College with an undergraduate degree in social work and the remaining two will graduate in December 2023. The average student GPA is 2.6, with the lowest being 1.5 and the highest being 4.0..</p> <p>ACT/SAT: 6 of 10 juniors completed Junior College Readiness, took the ACT in spring at their public school, and plan to retake the test again this fall. Of the remaining juniors, all four students are planning to follow a community college pathway through a certification program.</p> <p>Financial: No significant financial change, with the exception of one out-of-state student who is moving in-state and will likely lower their overall college debt load.</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Number of total students served	67	79	2	3	3	87
Number of high school students served	28	23	3	1	1	28
% of students in grade seven and higher going through intake process	100%	85.00%	5.00%	3%	5%	98%
% of high school students on track to enroll in an apprenticeship program or North Carolina college or university	100%	93%	-4%	0%	1%	90%
% of junior and senior high school students receiving one-on-one college readiness or career-pathway support	100%	79%	15%	0%	0%	94%

Q1 Comments:

REVISED: Number of total students served: 79=33 elementary students intake/active (out of 39); 5 6th graders (out of 6); 7 7th & 8th graders (out of 9); 23 HS students (out of 28); 11 college (out of 11). Number no longer includes 12 AVL Rise Tutors.

Number of high school students served: 23 out of 28 total high school students

% of students in grade seven and higher going through intake process: 48 total students 7th grade through college; 41 of 48 have gone through the intake process (41/48)

% of high school students on track to enroll in an apprenticeship program or North Carolina college or university: 28 HS students minus 1 pregnant student (who may need additional time) and 1 student who isn't clear on post-grad pathway (26/28)

% of junior and senior high school students receiving one-on-one college readiness or career-pathway support: 4 of 19 students are not in contact (15/19)

Q2 Comments:

Number of total students served: Cumulative total of 81=29 (of 34) elementary students, 15 (of 18) MS students, 26 (of 28) high school students, 11 (of 11) college-age students. Students who did not renew have been moved to inactive and may reactivate at any time. The number of students served does not include AVL Rise tutors or tutees.

Number of high school students served: 26 out of 28 total high school students

% of students in grade seven and higher going through intake process: We have 35 active students 7th grade through high school and 10 out of 11 active college students. The five students who have not been in contact have been moved to inactive status. (45/50)

% of high school students on track to enroll in an apprenticeship program or North Carolina college or university: As the College Director gets to know the students better, she is learning about the few who do not want to go to on to school and/or will not be able to meet academic requirements of a college or apprenticeship, which is three students. (25/28)

% of junior and senior high school students receiving one-on-one college readiness or career-pathway support: I am in consistent conversation about career or college readiness with 16 of 17 students.

Q3 comments:

Number of total students served: We have 40 students on our waitlist and have been able to add three to our roster and begin delivering services.

Number of high school students served: We have expanded service by one high school student.

% of students in grade seven and higher going through intake process: We have added an additional middle school student to our roster and have begun to fold her into our college prep program.

% of high school students on track to enroll in an apprenticeship program or North Carolina college or university: Six of our seven seniors have been accepted to four-year programs. One indicates that she may prefer pursuing a CNA degree at this time. Another is on the waitlist for AB Tech's Barber program.

% of junior and senior high school students receiving one-on-one college readiness or career-pathway support: I continue to be in consistent contact with 16 of 17 students. I have made progress in communicating with the family of the one outstanding student, and will likely begin working with her in Q4.

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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	\$ 35,750	\$ 13,313	\$ 10,782	\$ 11,094	\$ 561	\$ 0
Training						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support						\$ -
Contracts						\$ -
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
Total	\$ 35,750	\$ 13,313	\$ 10,782	\$ 11,094	\$ 561	\$ 0

Comments:

None.