

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Babies Need Bottoms	
Project Name:	Meeting Babies' Hygiene Needs with Wipes, Rash Cream and Baby Wash	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
	x	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>In WNC, the need for diaper assistance programs to provide diapers, as well as rash cream, baby wipes and baby wash, has continued to rise over the past few years. As the cost of goods and costs of living have risen, more and more families are in need of help meeting basic needs. Babies Need Bottoms heard repeatedly from partners how valued the addition of these hygiene items were to families who sought diaper assistance, and are grateful to Buncombe County for this grant, which has enabled us to increase the number of basic diapering supplies, beyond diapers, that we are able to provide to families. With the end of Covid-era relief programs, families faced a decline in supplemental assistance for food, and we've heard from many of our partners that they have seen a direct increase in requests as a result. One story we'd like to share involves a family with a baby who has incredibly sensitive skin, and is experiencing painful diaper rash despite the family changing the diaper frequently. As a result of this grant, we have been able to supply pediatrician recommended diaper rash treatment and prevention creams, as well as additional baby wipes, and through other grant funding, special diapers that the family has found to be more sensitive for their baby's unique health needs. BNB leadership worked with the partner agency to help the family develop a plan to access these additional supports for as long as they are needed. This is just one example of how this grant funding is making a difference in the lives of the babies and caregivers in Buncombe County.</p>
Quarter 2	<p>Families in Buncombe County continue to struggle with high costs of living, global economic challenges and region-specific conditions that make it difficult to meet their basic needs. Through the provision of hygiene essentials (baby wash, wipes, rash cream) in addition to our diapers, we have been able to meet several important needs at one time. This reduces stress for parents, improves health and hygiene for children, and means families can stretch precious dollars in their family budget for other needs. These hygiene essentials mean families can keep their children clean and dry after diaper changes and in the course of every day, messy life with a young child. This helps families in their caregiving (e.g. bathtime, diaper changes as a time of connection and care instead of stress) and promotes dignity for children and parents, knowing they can get clean when they need to. Our partners have shared this is especially meaningful for families who not stably housed. For some families, a package of wipes might be the only way they can keep their child clean. Rash cream serves the dual purpose of helping to prevent diaper rash and to help treat it. This is a first line defense that helps families manage diaper related skin irritation on their own, hopefully preventing the progression to further irritation or infection, and the need to seek medical care. This critical support means families in Buncombe County have more of their basic needs met and can be more financially and emotionally functional, with more dignity, in these specific and meaningful ways.</p>

Quarter 3	<p>We continue to receive positive feedback from partners and the families they serve when we are able to provide not only diapers, but also wipes, rash cream and baby wash - thanks to this grant. In their own words - here are just some of the comments we've gathered in the last three months: "We are serving a few moms living in shelters. The diapers and wipes have been very beneficial to them while their children are in care. " " It is great to have this resource to be able to use when our extra supplies are getting low to be able to supply diapers and wipes to families on quickly when stressors arise. " ""Receiving help with diapers and wipes each month makes a world of difference, especially when you have multiple kids in diapers- we go through them fast and it's hard to budget for at times, we greatly appreciate this service"" "Another mom is working on reunifying with her 2 young children. She enjoys being able to get bundles of diapers and pull ups to take to her mother, who is currently caring for her two young children." "We received a note from a client thanking us for having diapers. With the money she saved from not having to buy diapers she was able to buy food and other items of need that she might not have been able to do if she could not get diapers from us."</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

		Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
Measure	Annual Goal	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of baby wipes purchased and distributed	1200	577	350	900	2014	3841
# of rash cream purchased and distributed	288	128	30	33	196	387
# of units of baby wash purchased and distributed	120	69	99	0	100	268

Comments:

Through additional in-kind and financial donations, 344,626 essential items have been distributed in Buncombe County during the grant : 7,183 packs of baby wipes, 619 tubes of rash cream, 329 bottles of baby wash, 20 bottles of lotion, 50 canisters of formula, and 542 miscellaneous items (socks, underwear, swim wear). Additionally, during the grant period 335,313 diapers have gone to Buncombe County families through this partnership network. While this grant does not fund the diaper distribution, we're proud to report that these basic essentials are reaching so many families.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting Budget	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount Remaining
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 8,400	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00
Training	\$ 100	0.00		60.54	72.53	-33.07
Supplies/Materials	\$ 7,500	1,543.75	451.71	1,143.40	3,615.47	745.67
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 50	0.00				50.00
Professional Services	\$ 650	762.60		50.00		-162.60
Insurance and Bonds	\$ 300	0.00		500.00		-200.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 3,000	1,000.00	900.00	900.00	600.00	-400.00
Total	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,406.35	\$ 3,451.71	\$ 4,753.94	\$ 6,388.00	\$ -

Comments:

Significant in-kind donations alleviated our budgeted supplies costs, and moving to a bigger warehouse in Aug. 2023 increased our budgeted rent/facilities costs and insurance costs.