

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Working Wheels	
Project Name:	Affordable Vehicle Repairs	
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>The target population for this project is economically vulnerable individuals in Buncombe County who are on the road to self-sufficiency and unable to afford the repairs on a vehicle they already own. All participants in this project are engaged in programming with Cooperativa La Milpa, the YMI Cultural Center, or the Buncombe County Nurse Family Partnership.</p> <p>The first quarter of the project began slowly with two completed repairs. We have two cases in progress currently and anticipate that the pace of repairs will increase enabling us to successfully meet the project goals.</p> <p>Abby Incze, the Program Coordinator, resigned effective August 31, 2023. We should have a new Program Coordinator hired with the next 2 weeks. In the meantime, the Program Director and Executive Director are covering the Program Coordinator's duties.</p>
Quarter 2	<p>We are picking up the pace in the second quarter of the project with four completed repairs. We have two cases in progress currently and anticipate that the volume of repairs will continue to increase as the partners become more comfortable with the referral process. We have seen quite a bit of turnover in the case managers and liaisons at our three referral partners. This has created a bit of a bottleneck in the process of securing qualified referrals. We have a meeting of all of our partners at the end of February to get to know each other better and answer questions about the referral process. We hired a new Program Coordinator in November. We are seeking our next Program Director and anticipate that the job will be filled by March 1, 2024.</p> <p>We finished a case in November for a young man who was referred to Working Wheels by the YMI Cultural Center. His car was sitting in a shop and had a complicated computer issue that the first shop could not figure out. We got it towed to another shop that was able to complete the repair. Throughout the repair process, we mostly communicated with the program participant's mom as he was very busy with his first full-time job. Their household had 4 adults and 4 children. Once the vehicle was completed, the program participant's mother expressed how excited they were to have a working vehicle.</p>

Quarter 3	<p>In the third quarter, we received a surge of referrals for vehicle repairs and completed 12. Having completed 18 cases since July 1, we are now ahead of pace and should complete the 24 vehicle repairs by the end of May 2024. We hired a Program Director, Gillian Bee, and she began working on April 10. With a full staff, we are now able to increase the efficiency of our process and the pace of the vehicle repairs. One of our Vehicle Repair Program participants shared the following, "I am a mom with two young kids. Thanks to this program, I didn't have to choose between fixing my car and groceries. It was a huge blessing - thank you!"</p>
Quarter 4	<p>In the fourth quarter, we continued to receive a large number of referrals from our four partners for this project: Colaborativa La Milpa, the YMI Cultural Center, the Buncombe County Nurse Family Partnership, and the Re-entry Council of Buncombe County. We completed 9 vehicle repair cases totalling \$9,579. Gillian Bee is doing an excellent job in her role as Program Director. She has a background in science and is taking steps to formalize and strengthen our outcome and impact data collection.</p> <p>We set a goal that 75% of the clients served would identify as BIPOC. We made a great deal of progress toward our goal but reached only 68%. As we continue into a second year for this project, we will increase our outreach and communication efforts to serve at least 75% BIPOC clients.</p> <p>Here is a quotation from a recent program participant from Buncombe County: "I was able to continue to make it to work, I was able to finish school for the semester without needing rides, and now apply for new jobs. Thank you!"</p>

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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 unduplicated households receiving discounted vehicle repair	24	2	4	12	9	27
Average cost per repair provided by Working Wheels	\$ 1,150	\$ 636	\$ 1,065	\$ 998	\$ 1,064	\$ 850
% of program participants identified as BIPOC	75%	100%	75%	42%	56%	68%

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	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Auto parts and mechanic labor	\$ 27,600	\$ 1,271	\$ 4,259	\$ 11,973	\$ 9,578	\$ 519
Mechanics tools and equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,262	\$ 1,532	\$ 2,049	\$ 676	\$ (519)
Total	\$ 44,600	\$ 5,533	\$ 8,791	\$ 17,022	\$ 13,254	\$ -

Comments:

We completed 27 vehicle repairs during the grant term - 3 more than anticipated. After the 27th repair, we had \$519 left in the vehicle repair budget. This is not typically enough to complete a repair. Can we use the remaining \$519 for much-needed additional mechanics tools and equipment? If not, can we roll the \$519 into the 2024-2025 grant term? I am providing documentation for the additional money to be spent on mechanics tools and equipment but am happy to re-do if this is not a good way to go. Thank you!