

# FY2025 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Literacy Together	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Youth Literacy: Bridging the Gap	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024)
	x	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025)
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025)

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>Summer camp ran June 24 through August 15. Thirty two young adults participated as paid literacy interns, serving a total of 90 youth. 63 students are receiving one-on-one tutoring support and have completed pre-assessments, and 27 additional students are receiving reading and writing support in group settings.</p> <p>Interns have received weekly professional development experience through partnerships with local organizations such as Read to Succeed, Misfit Improv &amp; Acting School, First Bank, the UNCA Career Center, and Literacy Together board members. Some of the topics covered at the professional development meetings include financial literacy and budgeting, Early Childhood 101, active listening, resume building, culturally relevant teaching, and linguistic justice.</p> <p><b>Intern feedback:</b>          “Literacy Together has been an incredibly valuable experience for both me and my scholar. One of the biggest obstacles we've been working through is a general intimidation of reading big words or books. We use a lot of rhymes, pictures, and hands-on activities to break words down into individual sounds in an engaging and memorable way. This past year, I've noticed not just his skills improve, but also his patience, receptiveness, and excitement about reading. At the beginning of the year, my student refused to read words with four letters. Now, he dives into words like "hamburger" with no hesitation! Seeing the progress he's made in such a short amount of time is so encouraging and really shows the power that a little extra help can have on both a student's academic performance and perception of reading.”          –Laurel, intern at Youth Transformed for Life</p>
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<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>The YL program faced disruptions in October due to Hurricane Helene, delaying pre-assessments and affecting programming. Adapting to challenges, the program supported recovery efforts by distributing books and supporting distribution/clean up at partner sites. Tutors resumed work in early November, re-establishing student relationships and initiating pre-assessments. We had 19 interns serve 40+ students at eight Asheville-area sites. To prepare for post-crisis work, 14 interns attended specialized training by Child Life Disaster Relief experts on trauma-informed care and stress mitigation strategies for children. The YL program expanded its reach with new partnerships, including Erwin and Reynolds Middle Schools, and participation in U4Y's Community Nights. Ongoing collaborations with UNCA, AB Tech, and Warren Wilson College ensure robust community engagement. Elyse Hurley has joined as the new director, while former director Linda Murphey transitioned to the role of Grants &amp; Development Manager. A new cohort of interns will begin training in late January.</p> <p><b><i>Intern story post-Helene:</i></b> "I felt pretty prepared to come back [after Helene] ... for some [students], I could tell they were excited and wanted to do something fun, so I used games, warm-up activities, and flashcards to ease back into things. It worked really well to balance schoolwork with fun because it kept them engaged and gave us a chance to talk and process what was going on naturally."</p>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	

<b>Quarter 4</b>	
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## Progress toward annual goals

Only include new, unduplicated data for each quarter

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of pre-tests administered to students at program start	100	59	18			77
% of students completing pre- and post-test assessments who improve in one or more literacy skill areas	85%	66%	0%			66%
# of paid interns providing tutoring	50	32	19			51
						0%

### Comments:

Q1: Information provided is prior to Hurricane Helene.  
 Q2: We planned to test the ~40 students we were working with, but many students and interns had to stop the program due to Helene's impact. We have new tutors and students starting the program in January/February, so hope to improve these numbers in Q3. Re: % of students: there was no post-testing during this period. Post-assessments will take place before the end of the school year.

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## Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Any budget changes of more than 10% to any line item must be approved by County staff in writing in advance.

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 12,536.00	\$ 7,287.04			\$ 15,176.96
Intern Stipends	\$ 6,405.00	\$ 6,405.00	\$ -			\$ -
Shared Costs (postage & audit)	\$ 8,595.00		\$ 5,595.00			\$ 3,000.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 18,941.00	\$ 12,882.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,176.96

**Comments:**

Personnel line covers payroll expenses (salary, FICA, payroll).