

# FY2023 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Buncombe Partnership for Children	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Early Childhood Systems Coordination	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>ABPPC workgroups were actively engaged. Data &amp; Mapping Workgroup is working with a contractor to help with data visualization in an online site to make it more accessible &amp; interactive to engage a broader group of stakeholders. Transportation &amp; Wrap-Around Workgroup is developing a simple survey to get family feedback on specific needs and a range of possible "solutions," to inform NC Pre-K's pilot next year. Racial Equity Workgroup membership increased and has been sharing stories of personal interactions with the ECE system and is now prioritizing the local systemic barriers to equity that they want to address. Transportation/Wrap Care Workgroup also expanded with new families participating. Members are deepening their understanding of challenges and reviewing potential options.</p> <p>A new Infant/Toddler Workgroup formed to look ahead to expanding childcare for younger children, part of our original vision. Workgroup members met with DHT staff to explore ways to stabilize the workforce for children 0-2 as more local funds go into preschool classrooms.</p> <p>BPFC staff are part of a bi-monthly Preschool Community of Practice hosted by CCSA for counties engaged in Pre-k expansion. We expanded the leadership of ABPPC, moving to a tri-chair model with Marcia Whitney, Amieris Lavender &amp; Amy Barry as the chairs. We also hired Vickie Ansley to provide admin support for ABPPC.</p>
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<p><b>Quarter 2</b></p>	<p>This not-post-COVID world continues to be stressful and unpredictable for early educators (and educators at all levels). ABPPC gives local educators and ECE stakeholders a place to come together and support each other; the work groups create spaces to move real, impactful work forward. With the ongoing staffing challenges and increased child behavior and developmental challenges, everyone in the field is working harder and longer than before, so this "extra" collaborative work may move a bit slower than we'd sometimes like, but it is more essential now than ever.</p> <p>1) Transportation &amp; Wrap WG is surveying families and narrowing the list of pilot projects to implement for the fall. 2) Data &amp; Mapping WG is finalizing, with a consultant, a set of online, interactive maps that will help us communicate and plan with ECE partners, funders, and the larger community. 3) Racial Equity in ECE WG is working to identify a consultant to develop a series of short, story-based teacher training videos featuring local black and brown parents. 4) The Infant/Toddler WG continues to explore ways to increase salaries and supports to maintain crucial infant/toddler slots as more attention is placed on Pre-K. At the December full Collaborative meeting, the group planned for a January in-person meeting to be followed by time for connecting and socializing. A new topic will be discussed at this meeting -- the growing concern re: child suspension because of children's social-emotional behavioral challenges and teachers who are not equipped to meet and support these children's needs. We will be looking at the possibility of hosting a facilitated listening session bringing together ECE directors, teachers, behavioral specialists, ACS &amp; BCS early intervention staff, Children's Dev Services Assoc. and community mental health providers to learn more about the challenges they are facing and what is and is not working. At a follow-up session/s, participants would review issues and begin working together to identify potential solutions.</p>
<p><b>Quarter 3</b></p>	<p>Full ABPPC collaborative, which exists to keep a finger on the changing ECE landscape, identified an increase in the number of children experiencing social, emotional, behavioral challenging and increased early ed suspensions as a focus next year. Transportaion/Wrap Care: Spanish listening session (organized and facilitated by a work group member) was held in January with 23 parents, to collect information on their perceptions and barriers to pre-k. The work group designed and revised a family survey about wrap and transportation needs, which has nearly 200 responses so far. Racial Equity: The work group issued an RFP and secured a contractor (Integral Ed, national multi-medial educational content developer), and interviews for the video series are underway. Data and mapping: Our contract with WNC Viz came to a close, and we now have an interactive map of Buncombe's child care providers that we can use to evaluate NC Pre-K locations in relation to child population, poverty, and other key measures. We have already found the mpps helpful in our coversations with BCS to identify areas best suited to pilot a bus route. Infant Toddler: This group was established to keep a pulse on availability and stability of slots for 0-3, so they didn't have deliverables in the same way other work groups did. Their focus has been advocacy for Inf/Toddler teacher wages and supports, as well as examining the availability and locations of inf/toddler slots across the county. BPFC has been engaging with the Chamber on their Women Up series focused on the economic impact of child care, advocacy for stabilization grants and creation of a subsidy market rate floor and exploring our community's interest and capacity to leverage ECE Foundation's new family-friendly certification.</p>

<b>Quarter 4</b>	<p>The Equity in Early Ed Work Group spent this quarter working with Integral Ed to bring the groups story-based video series to reality. After about 8 months of brainstorming, prioritizing, initial planning, and identifying families with compelling stories to tell, Integral Ed conducted interviews and developed 3 short videos, currently in their final drafts. These videos will be disseminated to early educators through a variety of channels in FY24. BPFC recently received a 3-yr grant from the Biltmore Co. to increase infant and toddler slots. The Infant Toddler Work Group provided input on the creation of the provider application, which is expected to be disseminated at the end of July. Work Group members are also assisting with creation of grant guidelines and several members volunteered to serve on the application review committee. The Transportation/Wrap Care Work Group completed plans for a small summer care and transportation pilot in collaboration with Head Start and the YMCA. The program began on June 20th with children who were enrolled in NC Pre-K and did not have summer care along with a small number of private pay families. Each work group has a draft summary report for their 2022-23 work which includes, Purpose &amp; Scope, Desired Outcomes, Accomplishments to Date and What's Next. Summary Reports will be finalized this summer and shared at in-person event in September.</p>
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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress toward Annual Goal
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Percent of ABPPC work groups with clearly defined and active “Roadmaps” with goals and milestones they are working toward in FY22-23	100%	40%	80%	80%	100%	100%
Number of families and classroom teachers attending monthly ABPPC work group meetings and related activities	15	21	1	0	1	23
Percent of engaged families and classroom teachers who participate in at least 75% of work group meetings/activities	80%	N/A	N/A	86%	80%	86%

**Comments:**

We anticipated 5 active workgroups this year, but Program & Workforce did not meet (no clear collective path and many others working in this area). Our full ABPPC collaborative continues to discuss workforce issues and regional initiatives, but so much work is being done in this area that an ABPPC work group has not been needed. Since it never met and all other WGs met this target, we updated the first goal from 80% to 100%. Families and educators continue to be heavily involved in Racial Equity and Transportation/Wrap WGs. The Transportation/Wrap WG was scheduled to end in May, but families requested that they continue to meet at least quarterly through FY24 to observe and troubleshoot their ideas put into practice as a series of pilots in NC Pre-K centers. Racial Equity in Early Ed WG will continue to meet in FY24 to disseminate the videos they created and spark/lead conversations about bias and culture with early educators.

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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	\$ 42,000	\$ 600	\$ 3,567	\$6,419	\$34,623	\$ (3,209)
Travel/Training	\$ 300		\$ 12	\$121		\$ 167
Technology	\$ 2,000					\$ 2,000
Curriculum/Assessments						\$ -
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 200	55.1	\$ 51	\$684	\$550	\$ (1,182)
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 362				\$5	\$ 357
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities	\$ 1,718		\$ 7	\$137	\$115	\$ 1,459
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 500					\$ 500
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Stipends, childcare, food, gas cards	\$ 8,920	\$ 97	\$ 147	\$5,810	\$3,000	\$ (134)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 56,000</b>	<b>\$ 752</b>	<b>\$ 3,784</b>	<b>\$ 13,171</b>	<b>\$ 38,293</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>

**Comments:**

The bulk of spending in Quarter 4 (\$28,000) went to the Equity in Early Ed Work Group's video series project consultants, Integral Ed (showing up in the personnel line). The work group spent the first 3 quarters identifying challenges, prioritizing possible ways to address challenges, and then brainstorming content for a short video series focused on local family experiences. In Quarter 4, our consultants conducted local videos and developed 3 videos that will be disseminated next year. The overpending in personnel was due to allocating a small percentage of time of the Executive Director in May and June in place of the ABPPC Administrative Assistant's time. The Admin Assistant took time off to care for her spouse who was hospitalized.