

FY2023 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Pisgah Legal Services	
Project Name:	Legal Services for Children and Families in Buncombe County	
Reporting Quarter: (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.

Quarter 1	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 845 families with 1,757 children in the first quarter of the grant. Of the 234 cases closed for Buncombe County families with children this past quarter: 52% were related to domestic violence and child abuse, 29% were related to housing, 10% were related to immigration, 2% income maintenance, 4% for consumer, and the remaining 3% for other legal matters. Since July, Pisgah Legal Services has been seeing an increase in the number of people contacting us for services and cases closing. For cases involving domestic violence and child maltreatment, more clients are contacting us wanting assistance with more complex legal issues such as custody and distribution of assets, and far fewer are contacting us for simple Domestic Violence Protection Orders. For housing, we continue to see a large number of eviction cases and are starting to see an increase in foreclosure case filings.</p>
Quarter 2	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 1,133 families with 2,292 children in the two quarters of the grant. Of the 357 cases closed for Buncombe County families with children this past quarter: 48% were related to domestic violence and child abuse, 35% were related to housing, 4% were related to immigration, 2% income maintenance, 5% for consumer, and the remaining 6% for other legal matters. Since November, Pisgah Legal has witnessed the impact of Buncombe County's Department of Health and Human Services not having any rental assistance funds available. Many of our clients were in challenging situations and needed financial help to keep their families housed. We have also seen the colder weather bring on more clients with housing condition issues.</p>

Quarter 3	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 1,500 families with 3,039 children in the three quarters of the grant. Of the 267 cases closed for Buncombe County families with children this past quarter: 42% were related to domestic violence and child abuse, 39% were related to housing, 7% were related to immigration, 2% income maintenance, 5% for consumer, and the remaining 5% for other legal matters. This past quarter, we continued to see the number of housing cases grow. In quarter 3 they were 39% of our caseload, up from 35% in quarter 2 and 29% in quarter 1. Evictions are rising and nearly surpassing 2019 levels, and many are unable to afford housing here in Western North Carolina. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic rents in Buncombe County are estimated to have increased by 43.2% putting more and more families with children vulnerable to housing insecurities, due to an unforeseen expense and lost income.</p>
Quarter 4	<p>Pisgah Legal Services has provided legal services to 1,817 families with 3,718 children during the course of the grant. Of the 309 cases closed for Buncombe County families with children this past quarter: 54% were related to domestic violence and child abuse, 32% were related to housing, 2% were related to immigration, 4% income maintenance, 2% for consumer, and the remaining 6% for other legal matters. Pisgah Legal began participating in the Healthy Opportunities Pilot last year with the goal to address social determinants of health for people receiving Medicaid. Many of the families we are helping through this program qualify due to the children being on Medicaid. We began offering services related to housing legal issues in May of 2022. Services related to intimate partner violence opened up in May of 2023. This program will enable us to help stop the cycle of violence for many more children and families.</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	
Number of Buncombe County children helped by Pisgah Legal Services overall	3,000	1,757	535	747	679	3,718
Number of Buncombe County children helped through this grant	300	175	53	74	68	370
Number of closed Buncombe County cases supported through this grant	110	23	35	26	31	115
Success rate obtaining a positive outcome	90%	99%	99%	97%	98%	99%

Comments:

(Note: Cases reported in the first quarter include 540 cases for 1163 children opened prior to the grant period that continued to be worked. Subsequent quarters include new cases added.) During this quarter, support from Buncombe Strategic Partnership allowed us to help Jacob and his son Corey (names changed). Corey spent most of his life with his mother, but was struggling in school and had attendance problems. The situation escalated when the mother was in an abusive and neglectful relationship. After one particularly bad fight, the mother recognized the severity of the situation and dropped Corey off with Jacob to live. Through Jacob's love, dedication, and the stability he offered, Corey began thriving in school, but this was threatened when his mother changed her mind and filed for custody. A Pisgah Legal attorney represented Jacob in court and, due to the positive changes Corey experienced under Jacob's care, prevailed in getting him custody of Corey. Jacob is thrilled to have Corey permanently in his home where he can protect and nurture him.

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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	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -
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	\$ 80,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -

Comments: