

FY2022 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County	
Project Name:	Attendance, Behavior, Coursework, Social-Emotional Learning + Parent Engagement for K-6 Students	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
	X	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	<p>Our Student Support Specialists (SSS) have provided Tier 1, school-wide supports to over 2,000 students. Tier 1 supports including resource sharing around community resources, programs and policies (e.g. free/reduced price lunch, Buncombe County rental assistance, eviction moratoriums, and our Family Resource Centers). We provided gifts to 48 caseload families/135 caseload students through our annual Holiday Giving program. Other Tier 1 supports include basic needs assistance; SSS have distributed food boxes to 55 families, clothes to 95 students, and hygiene packs to 21 students. SSS have provided translation support to over 40 families. At Estes Elementary, 130 student were provided \$100 gift cards to Target or Walmart through Warm Winter Wishes - donors included community organizations, parents, teachers and staff. Our Learning Centers provide afterschool enrichment, including homework help, healthy snack, tutoring, math and reading groups, and activities with community partners. For example, at the Learning Center for Johnston Elementary students, Ms. Mari partnered with a local ceramicist, Ona Armstrong, of Firefly Valley Design, to bring in a hands on pottery workshop. This provided students with an experiential learning opportunity that touched on STEM concepts, arts, history and local culture. Each student was able to mold and shape their own Christmas cookie plate and then our guest ceramicist later painted and glazed each plate in her studio. Students had their Christmas cookie plates returned to them before our winter holiday recess. YEAR END: At Eblen, our new Student Support Specialist in place and in training for the month of March only Tier II/III supports during that time. Covid hit Emma hard at the beginning of the year through the holidays. It was difficult to enroll new students throughout the year. This ended up being a good thing as the students who were already being case-managed needed high intensity support. At Estes, there were 47 students at the mid-year point, but their Middle of Year (MOY) progress was not measured by the MAP math assessments until February. At Claxton, our permanent SSS went out on maternity leave and a substitute came in to take over critical needs and Tier II and III services.</p>
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	<p>The nature of our work puts us in Asheville's low-resource communities that are primarily composed of families of color, and the schools and communities where we work are made up of some of the most diverse populations in Buncombe County. Our work empowers children and families in our community, and we strive to create a Staff and Board that is representative of the community we serve. We are a participating organization in Asheville's Racial Justice Coalition. Our Afterschool and Summer Programs Manager serves as our representative on Communities In Schools of NC's DEI Committee, which provides monthly trainings and workshops to CIS affiliates.</p>

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	<p>Children First continues to focus on pursuing a diversified portfolio of funding sources, including private foundations, government grants, individual gifts, corporate sponsorships, and events. We have recently made hires to streamline and improve operations, including an Executive and Operations Assistant to assist the Finance and Operations Manager with finance, HR, and other operations tasks; a Program Assistant to manage our Family Resource Center (where we distribute food boxes, clothing, school supplies, and help with Emergency Financial Assistance); and a Communications and Events Coordinator. While these roles are not directly supported by this grant, they do contribute to organizational and operational efficiency by ensuring we have enough internal staff to support the work of our direct services and programming staff. We also filled our Director of Community Supports vacancy in Fall 2021. This position oversees our programming, including our five SSS, which will further increase operational excellence. We also onboarded our new Data and Grants Compliance Officer as of March 2022.</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 students receiving Tier 1 services	1,200	2,223	0	0	0	2,223
Number of students enrolled in afterschool and summer enrichment programs	35	29	9	2	49	89
Percent of Tier 2 and 3 case managed students that meet or make progress toward their ABC goals	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	98%	98%
Percent of case managed students promoted to the next grade	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	99%	99%
Number of parent engagement opportunities	4	4	6	9	37	56

Comments:

We confirmed 132/133 case managed students promoted and 145/148 case managed students (some of whom moved, thus the higher denominator) met or made progress on their ABC goals.

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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	\$ 70,240	\$ 31,686	\$ 25,229	\$ 4,346	\$ 8,980	\$ (0)
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	\$ 70,240	\$ 31,686	\$ 25,229	\$ 4,346	\$ 8,980	\$ (0)

Comments: