

# FY2023 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

|  |                                     |   |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Organization Name:</b>                | Literacy Together                   |   |  |
| <b>Project Name:</b>                     | Pathways to Opportunity             |   |  |
| <b>Reporting Quarter:</b><br>(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>This quarter is off to a great start. The English for Speakers of Other Languages program has approximately 230 active students, and twenty new tutors have been trained and matched since July 1. After the first quarter, nine students passed the US Naturalization Exam and became citizens. This number exceeds our goal of seven for the year. The Adult Literacy program currently has 41 active students.</p> <p><b>Adult Literacy Success Story:</b> After working hard for three years with his tutor, Tim, Bob completed the 12-book Wilson Reading System. He came into the program in 2019, struggling with his reading and writing, and recently graduated with an understanding of advanced concepts in the English language. That is a rare accomplishment. But even more important, Bob now has the skills and experience to become an Adult Literacy tutor! Our students know better than anyone else what it takes to do this work and how important it is to have a partner on that journey. Bob and Tim have been a fantastic team and an inspiration to us all.</p> |
| <b>Quarter 2</b> | <p>At this point we are working with 252 active students for ESOL and Adult Literacy. Fourteen students have gotten a new job or promotion.</p> <p><b>ESOL Success Story:</b> With her husband and two preschool daughters, MZ fled her home country, Afghanistan, and the Taliban during the great international airlift of August 2021. After stops in Qatar, Germany, and New Mexico, the family arrived in Asheville in January 2022.</p> <p>MZ discovered a passion and great talent for making beaded jewelry in her new homeland. Since discovering her talent, MZ has worked tirelessly, and by selling her creations at local craft fairs, she has increased her household income by 2/3 in the past month.</p> <p>MZ came to Literacy Together in the early summer. She had no access to formal education in her home country and did not read or write her native language. MZ has been taking English lessons twice a week since May, and she has learned how to count to one thousand, the names of many colors, how to relate sales to money earned, and how to</p>            |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Quarter 3</b> | <p>We are on track to meet or exceed our goals for this fiscal year. Three students have passed the US Naturalization exam this quarter bringing our total to 12, exceeding our goal of seven for the entire year. Students have achieved many of their personal literacy goals. Twenty-six students have secured a new job or earned a promotion (Goal: 18), and 41 have increased involvement in their children's education (Goal: 37). The addition of the ESOL Associate has enabled us to offer a workshop for tutors in March on the Northstar Digital Literacy program. Additionally, nine tutors were trained in Burlington English, and most will begin using it soon in their classes.</p> <p><b>Adult Literacy Success Story from Program Director Rebecca Massey:</b> One of my students - Iris - called me this week to tell me she read her first book! She was so excited. I asked if she could write a few sentences about how that made her feel and why it was so important to her. She wrote a letter and brought it straight to me that day. And she picked up two more books to take home because she loves the feeling of reading now. Iris is a wonderful person, and we are all grateful to work with her. We included her story in our monthly newsletter.</p> |
| <b>Quarter 4</b> | <p><b>Adult Literacy Student Story:</b> David is a beautiful, creative, driven, and rare person in this world that we are grateful to know through our GED tutoring program. In this interview, David shares his experience with ADHD and dyslexia, two commonly intertwined learning disabilities/differences. While ADHD and dyslexia have been significant obstacles in David's education, they have also been the source of his uniqueness and artistry, which he expresses through drag. You can find him performing as Ophelia Love at O. Henry's, Asheville Beauty Academy, Miss Gay Latina, and other drag shows in the Asheville area. David's essay explores the role that art, performance, beauty, passion, and PRIDE have played in his life. He chose to write this essay with spellcheck off and completely unedited so the audience can get a small glimpse into how language works in the mind of a dyslexic person. "Ophelia Ballet" is a complicated, liberated work of art — just like David himself. (Video interview and full essay can be found here: <a href="https://lit-together.org/davids-success-story/">https://lit-together.org/davids-success-story/</a>)</p>   |

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## Progress toward annual goals

| Measure  | Annual Goal | Actual Results (Enter Data) |           |           |           | Progress |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|  |             | Quarter 1                   | Quarter 2 | Quarter 3 | Quarter 4 |          |
| Number of students who complete at least 40 hours of instruction                             | 200         | 0                           | 35        | 110       | 184       | 329      |
| Percent of students who are post-tested that show improvement according to post-test results | 50%         | 0%                          | 0%        | 65%       | 79%       | 79%      |
| Number of students who pass the US Naturalization test                                       | 7           | 8                           | 1         | 4         | 3         | 16       |
| Number of students who earn their High School Equivalency diploma                            | 4           | 0                           | 1         | 0         | 1         | 2        |

### Comments:

All 4 of those projected HSEs depended on the student finishing the math subject test in FY 22-23. HSE Math is by far the most challenging subject for HSE prep students. The HSE goal was met for two students in FY 22-23. For the other 2, that process is taking longer than anticipated -- due to a terminal illness in the family for one student and an increase in work obligations for the other student. After talking with both students and their tutors, we agreed they would each study for a couple more months before taking their final HSE subject test in math. That pushes their HSE goal into FY 23-24.

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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                                | \$ 26,000        | \$ 8,876                    | \$ 8,876        | \$ 8,248        | \$ -        | \$ -        |
| 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                          |                  |                             |                 |                 |             | \$ -        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$ 26,000</b> | <b>\$ 8,876</b>             | <b>\$ 8,876</b> | <b>\$ 8,248</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

**Comments:**