

# FY2023 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Carolina Small Business Development Fund	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Western Women's Business Center	
<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>For the past few months, we have seen more clients for one on one coaching and more participants in our workshops. This quarter, we held 12 trainings /events, including our monthly African American Business Association and one training in Spanish from CSBDF Latino Program with over 133 attendees on business-related topics, including Content Planning, Preparing for a Small Business Loan, Ideation to Incubation, Introducing Government Contracting, Marketing 101, Business Blueprint, Como Funciona el Dinero (How Money Works), Small Business Banking, QuickBooks, and more.</p> <p>We provided 169 hours of one-on-one business coaching to 79 clients.</p> <p>The WWBC staff attended and participated in the following events: WomanUp , SCORE Chapter Meeting, Mexican Consulate, SCORE Chapter Meeting, Boone Chapter Meeting, WomanUp, FABA Resource Panel (Panelist), Radio Show WRES 100.7, AVL Chamber Event -Get Down by the River, Pride Event, FABA Resource Networking, NC Pathways, Attend Monthly Catapult, ASAP Meeting @ AB Tech Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project</p> <p>On September, 2022, the WWBC had the honor to be invited to the 2022 WNC Rebounding Stronger Summit at the Cherokee Convention Center. Our WWBC Director participated in the Strategic for Innovation in Rural America panel discussion on current efforts and best practices for innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and small business development that can boost growth in the WNC region. This event was hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and welcomed by NC Governor Roy Cooper.</p> <p>This quarter the WWBC awarded 10 existing small businesses in the WNC region, including five (5) businesses from Buncombe County with a small business grant \$3,500 for working capital.</p>
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**Quarter 2**

This quarter, we held nine trainings /events on business-related topics, including Canva for beginners, Crafting your Business Plan, QuickBooks, Women’s Certification for Government Contract, Preparing for a Small Business Loan, Marketing 101, and more, with over 166 attendees.

We provided 118 hours of one-on-one business coaching to 63 clients.

On October 9th Carolina Small Business Development Fund Latino Program and The Western Women's Business Center celebrated the Hispanic Heritage Month by providing a Latin Festival in collaboration with AB Tech Community College and other local partners. Over 150 and over 15 partners attended and offered business resources to the Latino Business community.

On December 10, 2022, the WWBC, in partnership with the Asheville Mall and Asheville BizRadio, hosted the Holiday Pop-up event featuring more than 30 local Women entrepreneurs' vendors. The mission of this event is to support the success of women entrepreneurs in the community. Vendors with a wide range of products, including jewelry, soaps, desserts, art, clothes, and so much more

On December 12, 2022. The WWBC Director, Zurilma Anuel, and CSBDF Controller, Meryl Olson, attended the 2022 Association of Women's Business Centers Leadership Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The annual conference was a gathering of women business leaders from across the country and featured sessions on entrepreneurship resources, networking, and much more. As a partner and advocate for women-owned small businesses in North Carolina, learning and engaging with others at events like these is pivotal to the growth and mission of WWBC and Carolina Small Business Development Fund

**Quarter 3**

The WWBC hosted 15 trainings /events on business-related topics, including 3 workshops in Spanish. Access to Capital, Small Business Banking, Crafting your Business Plan, and QuickBooks with over 200 attendees. 77 from Buncombe County.

We provided over 150 hours of one-on-one business coaching to 77 clients. 4 Asian, 12 Black, 2 Native American, 43 White, 12 Hispanic, 4 no response.

On January 3, 2023, we attended the YMI Cultural Center’s 130th Birthday Celebration in Asheville. The event was a celebration of the partner’s support to the YMI through the years and for encouraging others to donate to their initiatives and to connect to their organization.

On January 12, 2023 the WWBC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its new office location in the Asheville Mall. The ceremony was attended by more than 40 local small business leaders, entrepreneurs, and public officials. The new location allows the WWBC to be more accessible to small businesses, owners, and entrepreneurs.

On February 21, 2023, we hosted the African American Business Alliance: Small Business Banking to discuss why are there so many banks. Aren’t all banks the same? How to pick the right bank for you. Are credit unions banks? 14 people attended.

On March 29, 2023, the WWBC sponsored and attended Venture Asheville Entrepreneur Resilience Summit. The team connected with many inspiring entrepreneurs in the community and offered our free resources and free tickets to attend the WWBC 8th Annual Conference on April 13, 2023.

<b>Quarter 4</b>	<p>The Western Women's Business Center had a busy quarter supporting small businesses across the western region. We hosted 9 seminars/workshops with over 156 attendees. We served over 190 clients through trainings and technical assistance. We were pleased to connect with more than 300 entrepreneurs and community leaders at our SOLD-OUT annual conference, Me + WWBC, Better Together! Held at the Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College/Mission Health Conference Center.</p> <p>The WWBC celebrates women's small business economy by bringing everyone together in one place demonstrating that women should always have a seat at the table. Read WLOS News 13 coverage. <a href="https://wlos.com/news/local/western-womens-business-center-conference-of-empowered-female-business-owners-gather-in-asheville-ashevillebuncombe-technical-community-collegemission-health-conference-center?mc_cid=1d7fc9fb73&amp;mc_eid=d53e647d62">https://wlos.com/news/local/western-womens-business-center-conference-of-empowered-female-business-owners-gather-in-asheville-ashevillebuncombe-technical-community-collegemission-health-conference-center?mc_cid=1d7fc9fb73&amp;mc_eid=d53e647d62</a>.</p> <p>The Western Women's Business Center and Carolina Small Business Development Fund made a presence at the Green and Inclusive Finance Roundtable in Pittsburgh this past week. Appalachian Community Capital and its CDFI members convened in Pittsburgh for a roundtable where they engaged with and heard from funders &amp; practitioners about green and inclusive finance, discussed real-world case studies from ACC member portfolio clients, and participated in a hands-on design sprint..</p> <p>The WWBC has partnered with the Warrior Nations VENDZ FOR VETS, a combo vending machine in the Asheville Mall. Warrior Nations is a non-profit organization founded by David Tripp, a former United States Marine. Their mission is more than a name; it's a community of veterans and of civilians alike who desire for veterans to be accepted back into their home communities with respect and opportunity, who desire for veteran suicide, homelessness, poverty, and struggles to decrease, who are committed to remembering the sacrifice of those who have defended our country, and are ready to be a WARRIOR NATION again</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 people served through training and technical assistance	75	102	92	77	190	461
Number of Latino clients served through one-on-one technical assistance	10	16	9	12	23	60
Number of full-time equivalent jobs created or retained with support from grant activities	6	13	2	1	0	16

**Comments:**

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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	\$ 11,000	\$ 4,688	\$ 6,312			\$ (0)
Training	\$ 1,000				\$ 1,000	\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 500		\$ 56	\$ 134	\$ 434	\$ (124)
Meetings						\$ -
Equipment/Furniture						\$ -
Printing/Marketing						\$ -
Licensing/Memberships/Dues/Subscriptions						\$ -
Client Support	\$ 2,000		\$ 335	\$ 1,665		\$ -
Contracts	\$ 2,000			\$ 1,320	\$ 556	\$ 124
Professional Services						\$ -
Insurance and Bonds						\$ -
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500			\$ 0
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
List other cost						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	<b>\$ 5,188</b>	<b>\$ 7,203</b>	<b>\$ 3,119</b>	<b>\$ 1,990</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Comments:**