

FY2022 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Read to Succeed Asheville/Buncombe	
Project Name:	Community Powered Literacy - Family Engagement and Kindergarten Readiness	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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>R2S rounded out Q4 supporting early childhood partners YWCA and Christine Avery Learning Center (CWA) with family reading resources, observing and participating in Pre-K classroom instruction at CWA, and launching the first Pre-K/Kindergarten classroom at Project Lighten Up in the Shiloh Community.</p> <p>Following a very successful family reading event at the YWCA on March 31, 2022, R2S early childhood consultant Jacque Hall continued to strategize support for our PreK classrooms there, delivering an additional 32 family reading kits for families who were not able to attend the event. Family reading kits included culturally-responsive board books, a corresponding craft and comprehension guide, Foundations letter-keyword-sound puzzles, and additional goodies for kids. In May, Hall met with the NC PreK teacher at CWA, observing Morning Work and Circle Time and then brainstorming additional ideas for strengthening phonological awareness and phonics instruction during those times. Specific ideas included utilizing letter-sound cards, employing more multi-sensory activities for students to practice letter formation, and reading a book aligned with the day's/week's theme. R2S provided Foundations materials in the classroom, focusing on the most prominent sounds letters make, and matching sounds and letters.</p> <p>R2S also designed, assembled, and distributed Spring Break Book Bundles to 17 rising kindergartners at CWA and Graduation Kits for 47 rising kindergartners at CWA and YWCA.</p> <p>Graduation kits included Foundations letter-sound cards, "King of Kindergarten" children's book by Derrick Barnes, a make-your-own-crown craft, a general family reading guide with tips for reading with students, a flyer sharing a host of free reading apps and websites, and a visually engaging "Kindergarten Literacy Milestones" PDF to support foundational skill-building at home.</p> <p>During April and May, R2S Co-EDS Jaimee Stanley and Jess McLean plus Early Learning Consultant Jacque Hall met with Pastor Hardaway and began preparations for supporting Project Lighten Up's summer camp at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church in the Shiloh community with Pre-K/Kindergarten literacy instruction.</p> <p>In early June, with the help of youth volunteers from My Daddy Taught Me That, R2S created a PreK/Kindergarten classroom in Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church and contracted two reading teachers to support literacy instruction there three times a week. We outfitted the classroom with Foundations phonics materials and Heggerty PreK phonemic awareness curriculum as well as shelving, tables, carpets, culturally-responsive books, reading center games and activities, and sensory supplies for a "calm corner."</p> <p>Instruction began on Mon., June 13, with Jessica Moore, a Black educator and trained instructional assistant who works at Claxton Elementary during the school year. Daily literacy blocks include group phonemic awareness and phonics lessons,</p>
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gamified literacy centers, and silent reading/read-aloud time. Monica Kohler, a certified Kindergarten teacher at Claxton Elementary and afterschool reading teacher at the Arthur R. Edington Center, also joined in late June to assist with literacy instruction.

R2S conducted CORE Phonics and Phonological Awareness assessments on the 8 participating rising Kindergarten and rising first-grade students on June 13, 2022, and the literacy team made plans to reassess in mid-July and then when the program wraps up in mid-August with progress monitoring along the way. 2 students were identified for one-to-one instructional support based on the growth potential for letter naming and sound recognition, and R2S AmeriCorps member Olivia Fingold signed on to tutor three times a week starting in July 2022.

Finally, a classroom library's worth of new culturally-responsive books was purchased for YWCA and CWA partners – all books feature BIPOC main characters and primarily Black authors and illustrators.

Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:

In addition to infusing culturally-responsive instruction and materials into all the work undertaken by this grant, R2S also participated in several equity-driven initiatives in Q4. We continued contracting a Black community member who worked in the office through mid-May and we onboarded a summer high school intern for June - August. This intern also identifies as Black and is a rising sophomore at Asheville Christian Academy; she helps with family reading events, tutor/program supply organization, blog content generation, and more. In late May, R2S participated in GRINDFest, a local festival celebrating Black businesses; we shared 250 new Black children's books to visiting families and community members.

In May, R2S staff attended the United Way's United for Youth Spring Convening, and in June, the United Way Centennial Community Celebration for which we donated 240 culturally-responsive children's books and 480 printed family reading resources to be shared with community partners supporting students this summer.

Also in June, Co-ED Jess McLean attended a webinar sponsored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with Danae Jones Aicher, formerly of Asheville, titled "Privilege, Power & Philanthropy: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Fundraising World."

Activities related to increasing operational excellence:

Three R2S staff members completed the Reading Research to Classroom Practice training in Q4, and AmeriCorps member (and soon to be full-time R2S Literacy Support Coordinator) completed a three-day Wilson Learning Systems workshop in June. R2S also signed up former Early Learning Consultant and now Co-Executive Director Jacquelyn Hall for the LETRS training that all ACS and BCS teachers will be taking in the coming year.

R2S raised over \$35,000 at our 10-Year Celebration Event from corporate sponsors and individual donors and received media coverage from WLOS, Mountain Xpress, and 103.7 WPVM Asheville. In April, community partners FART Asheville and BorgWarner Turbo Systems gave a combined \$6,000+ to R2S through various community initiatives. R2S was awarded its first-ever grant from the Sutherland Family Foundation to support summer programming at the Edington Center, and we received additional notice of grant awards from Buncombe County, Junior League of Asheville, and WNC Bridge Foundation (multi-year grant) totaling \$345,000.

We added several new resources to our website, including an entire Family Reading Resources section featuring free reading apps, culturally-responsive children's book recommendations, family comprehension guides, and more. Year-over-year, traffic to the R2S website was up over 84% in Q4.

In June, the R2S board of directors unanimously passed a \$412,000 FY2023 budget and voted to hire Jacquelyn Hall as the new Co-Executive Director following the departure of Jaimee Stanley, who moved to Minnesota with her husband.

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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 community members engaged through kindergarten-readiness trainings	50	69	19	0	6	94
Number of community partners' staff training sessions conducted	6	3	2	0	5	10
Response rate on pre- and post- training surveys	75%	0%	42%	N/A*	100%*	100%
Number of family kits provided	100	0	0	68	96	164
Number of classroom resource kits provided	10	2	5	1	2	10
Percent of rising kindergarteners who worked one-to-one or one-to-many with trained volunteers who are at readiness expectation levels on EOY evaluations	75%	N/A**	N/A	N/A**	N/A**	0%
Number of family events/activities hosted/co-hosted/supported with community partner	6	0	1	4	1	6

Comments:

*During a multi-day training, we conducted a survey with trainees to capture knowledge gain on the literacy concepts that had been covered the day before. With 100% of respondents in attendance, we were able to gather quick and valuable feedback from the entire group on what they had retained and what they still had questions on.

**No volunteers worked one-to-one or one-to-many with early childhood centers in Q4. Partners have requested to limit adults in PreK classrooms while COVID subvariants continue to increase risk of transmission.

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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	\$ 29,628	\$ 2,675	\$ 1,625	\$ 9,850	\$ 15,478	\$ -
Travel/Training						\$ -
Technology						\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments	\$ 2,000	\$ 672	\$ 184	\$ 1,013	\$ 131	\$ 0
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials	\$ 16,272	\$ 467	\$ 452	\$ 5,657	\$ 9,696	\$ 0
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage	\$ 2,100	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 1,082	\$ 697	\$ 171
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (please list)						\$ -
Total	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,814	\$ 2,411	\$ 17,602	\$ 26,002	\$ 171

Comments: