

## **MINUTES**

### **Committee Members Present**

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Robert Pressley, Al Whitesides

### **County Staff Present**

Tim Love, Rasheeda McDaniels, Rachael Nygaard, Trish Wallin

### **Guests Present**

Marta Acala Williams, Leslie Anderson, Mary Arnold, Stacey Bailey, Tony Baldwin, Amy Barry, Greg Borom, Jennifer Bosworth, Kit Cramer, John Dewitt, Martha Geitner, Caitlin Johnson, Ron Layne, Beth Maczka, Terrence McAllister, Dawn Meskil, Sala Menaya-Merritt, Denise Patterson, Corrie Price, Denise Purcell, Jennifer Reed, Brian Repass, Jerry Rice, Caroline Rodier, Chuck Rosenblum, Shaunda Sanford, Parker Smith, Susanne Swanger, Glenda Weinert, Marcia Whitney

### **Discussion**

- The committee met with representatives of Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools from 8:30 to 10:00 and with representatives of the Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative from 10:00 to 11:30.
- Staff provided an overview of the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund and Committee.
- Commissioners requested input and feedback about plans.
- Commissioners requested ideas for projects and what it would take to address barriers and scale up the system.
- There was some feedback regarding concern about committee membership structure and the importance of engagement with early childhood education experts. Commissioners shared that the expertise of the professionals in the field is invaluable to the process. And that while they are limited in the roles they are creating on the committee due to conflicts of interest, they will continue to seek out opportunities for continued involvement and partnership.
- Another area of feedback was regarding timeframe and the feasibility designing impactful and sustainable efforts with a grant process opening this spring. Commissioners shared the perspective that the fund was established in response to a child care crisis, so timing is critical. That in the first year of the fund, the idea is to build on the planning that has taken place over the past couple of years, make some investments now, and adjust as needed over time. Commissioners shared that partners may submit proposals for planning grants for areas where planning is needed.
- There was also some concern expressed from partners about how the County will staff the effort.
- Partners provided updates on their current efforts and potential projects, such as: maintaining classrooms/slots already in place; facility space for new classrooms; flexible funding for slots; leveraging funding from diverse sources; wrap-around services such as transportation and after care; unlicensed classrooms; teacher recruitment, training and development; workforce supports and incentives; implementation of curriculums; support from public systems for community based centers; assistance for children in need of social/behavioral/emotional support and their caregivers & educators; and family engagement.

**Next Steps**

- Committee membership applications due March 15
- Funding application to be released in early March

**Public Comment**

- Jerry Rice and Greg Borom each made comments regarding the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund and Committee.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Meeting Materials**

The following documents are included as attachments to these minutes:

- Overview information about Early Childhood Fund & Committee
- Information about Committee member application process

**Next meeting**

March 5, 2019, 10:00-11:30 at 200 College Street, Room 310

# Buncombe County

## Early Childhood Education and Development Fund



### The Fund

Buncombe County has established an Early Childhood Education and Development Fund for the purpose of advancing the strategic priority to ensure that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days, including access to quality early childhood education.

### The Committee

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee is to engage with community partners, solicit public input and make policy and funding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for Buncombe County's Early Childhood Education and Development Fund. The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members and shall be appointed by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners upon application as follows:

- three (3) members of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners;
- one (1) business community or economic development professional;
- one (1) funder or community investment professional;
- one (1) parent;
- one (1) pediatrician or medical professional in service to young children;
- one (1) professor or higher education professional; and
- one (1) retiree from the field of early childhood education.

Commissioners Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Robert Pressley and Al Whitesides have been appointed, effective January 2019.

To apply, visit the Boards and Commissions web page on [www.BuncombeCounty.org](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org)

**Applications are due by March 15, 2019.**

### Funding Priorities

The Board of Commissioners has identified the following goals related to this priority:

- Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach;
- Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs;
- Address issues of affordability, both for providers in a sustainable business model and for families in access to care;
- Support a robust career track in the field of early education, with development ladders from entry level to highly educated, credentialed, seasoned professionals; and
- Cultivate a system that responds to the needs of families, such as those impacted by trauma, poverty and addiction.

Funding will be allocated for the following purposes:

1. Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings;
2. Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers;
3. Supporting strategies for scaling up effective programs; and
4. Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs.

# Buncombe County

## Early Childhood Education and Development Fund



### Eligibility

- All organization types will be eligible to apply. This includes public/governmental agencies as well as private organizations, including nonprofits and private businesses.
- In this first year (FY2020), request for funding for capital projects will be restricted to the public school systems. Capital outlay projects are defined as planning, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, improvement, repair, or renovation of buildings and for the purchase of land for early childhood care and education purposes.
- Any organization type may request funding for program operations.
- Multi-year funding requests will be considered.

### Application Process

Applications for FY2020 funding will be accepted online. The application is anticipated to open by March 1, 2019 with a tentative deadline of mid-April.

### 2019 Tentative Timeline

**January:** Commissioners appointed to committee

**February:** Community engagement sessions

**March:** Committee member applications due, Funding application opens

**April:** Funding applications due, Committee formation (members, schedule, by-laws, orientation)

**May:** Funding application review & Committee recommendations

**June:** Funding appropriations by Board of Commissioners

**July:** FY2020 funding cycle begins

### Community Engagement Opportunities

- Stay informed at [www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants)
- Apply to join the committee
- Attend engagement sessions with the committee
- Attend committee meetings and utilize public comment
- Share feedback at [www.BuncombeCounty.org/LetsTalk](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org/LetsTalk)
- Contact Commissioners on Early Childhood Committee at [www.BuncombeCounty.org/Commissioners](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org/Commissioners)
- Coordinate with staff through the Strategic Partnerships Department:

Rachael Nygaard  
Strategic Partnerships Director  
Buncombe County  
Office: (828) 250-6536  
Cell: (828) 545-4243  
[Rachael.Nygaard@BuncombeCounty.org](mailto:Rachael.Nygaard@BuncombeCounty.org)

# Help Shape the Future for Buncombe's Kids: Apply for the Early Childhood Committee



This is your chance to work alongside Commissioners and help shape the future of Buncombe County's early childhood education opportunities. The newly established Early Childhood Education and Development Fund will be a major driver in assuring every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive during their first 2,000 days. A major focus on this initiative is to increase access to quality, affordable early childhood education. As such, the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee, featuring three County Commissioners, is being formed to guide how the fund will be utilized.

The purpose of the committee is to engage with community partners, solicit public input, and make policy and funding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. It will be comprised of nine members that will be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The breakdown of members will be:

- Three members of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
- One business or economic development professional
- One funder or community investment professional
- One parent
- One pediatrician or medical professional in service to young children
- One professor or higher education professional
- One retiree from the field of early childhood education

Commissioners Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Robert Pressley, and Al Whitesides have already been appointed. If you would like to join them and other community members shaping the future of early childhood education then please apply to be part of this pivotal and exciting committee.

To apply, visit the Boards and Commissions web page on [www.BuncombeCounty.org](http://www.BuncombeCounty.org)

Note: Please indicate which seat(s) you are applying for.

**Applications are due by March 15, 2019.**