



Buncombe County Early Childhood Fund

Presented by

Early Childhood Committee

Community Engagement Session

Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, 3:30 - 5 p.m.



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Community Engagement Session

Purpose: Share updates about the fund & gather feedback to help guide future direction

Agenda:

- Early Childhood Committee Introduction
- Background / Overview of Early Childhood Fund
- FY2020 Grant updates
- FY2021 Grant cycle overview
- Q&A / Listening session



“ 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. ”

- Board of Commissioners
Strategic Priority



Early Childhood Committee



Early Childhood Committee

- Leslie Anderson
- Jasmine Beach-Ferrara
- Philip Belcher
- Christy Cheek
- Kit Cramer
- Jane Hatley
- Rich Johnston
- Himanshu Karvir
- Chavaun Letman
- Dr. Susan Mims
- Robert Pressley
- Mistie Reising-Cogbill
- Glenda Weinert
- Al Whitesides
- Kidada Wynn



Early Childhood Committee



- Committee purpose is to :
 1. engage with community partners
 2. solicit public input
 3. make policy & funding recommendations to the Board of Commissioners
- Meets 1st Tuesdays of each month, 1:00 – 2:30 at 200 College Street
- Meetings are open to the public and include public comment section



Early Childhood Education & Development Fund

- Created in response to a well-documented local shortage of quality early childhood education programs & barriers that families face in accessing existing programs... including affordability & a shortage of qualified teachers and staff in classrooms and centers
- County investment of \$3.6 million per year, with an annual increase of 2%
- FY2021 funding amount is \$3,672,000



FY2020 Grants

- \$3.6 million total funding for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
- \$1.95 million to new grants + \$1.65 million to renewing projects
- 19 different projects within 11 organizations:
 - Asheville City Schools
 - Buncombe County Schools
 - Buncombe Partnership for Children
 - CIMA
 - Community Action Opportunities
 - Eliada Homes
 - Evolve Early Learning
 - Irene Wortham Center
 - Southwestern Child Development
 - Warren Wilson College
 - YWCA



FY2020 Grants

Visit www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants to read about each project and view the dashboard

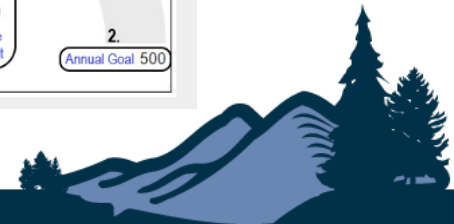
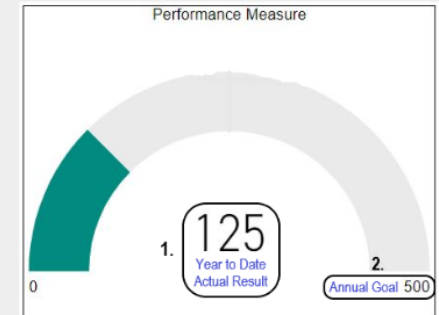


Early Childhood Education Grants FY2020 Funded Projects

Includes:

- Grant amounts
- Project descriptions
- Service goals & progress
- Financial info

Performance Measures Visual Guide
- Each visual reflects 2 data points:
1. Year to Date Actual Result is represented by the green bar and the value in the middle of the visual (125 in visual below)
2. Annual Goal (the value on right hand side - 500 in visual below)



Community Indicators

Measures	FY2020 Figures
# of licensed child care facilities	113 facilities (including centers & homes)
# of licensed slots	7,880 slots
% of all children served	29%
Quality star rating of slots	1-star: 10 facilities (includes those not accepting subsidy) 2-star: 1 3-star: 22 4-star: 19 5-star: 50
# of employees working in facilities	1,045
Average wage	\$12.92 teacher \$11.90 assistant teacher
Teacher turnover	27% (full time teachers & assistants)
Kindergarten readiness	69% (Asheville City Schools = within normal limits & above gifted cutoff; Buncombe County Schools = proficient)

FY2021 Grant Cycle Overview



Funding Priorities

- Funding is earmarked to support early care and education for children birth through kindergarten. This includes the following categories:
 - infants/toddlers – ages six (6) weeks to three (3) years old
 - preschoolers – ages three (3) to five (5) years old
 - pre-kindergarteners (pre-k) – 4 year old rising kindergarteners (4 years old by August 31st)
- Emphasis in the fund is given to preschool and pre-kindergarten. This is not associated with “NC Pre-K,” which is a program of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education.



Funding Strategies

Funding will be allocated for projects using the following strategies:

1. Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings
2. Supporting capacity and/or quality for existing programs
3. Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers
4. Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs
5. Enhancing the effectiveness of overall system of early care and education, including advocacy approaches



Timeline

January 18, 2020

Grant writing workshop

10:00 – 11:30

200 College Street, Asheville, NC

(optional for applicants)

February 14, 2020

Applications due by 5:00

February - April

Grant review by Committee

May – June

Grant awards by Commissioners as part of County budget process



Q&A / Listening Session

