

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: ABCCM

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Code Purple is part of a larger community issue this year due to COVID, so ABCCM may or may not be able to fulfill the grant as written. Discussions being held between City, County, and Homeless Coalition. ABCCM use of \$20K in grant funds TBD.

Transformation Village is expecting to get Certificate of Occupancy and begin transitioning residents in from Steadfast House to the residence hall next week. We received a virtual tour of the facility from outside, aerial view/drone footage. Much construction is still underway. Playground, amphitheater, indoor renovations on-going, many many valuable partnerships including AB Tech Enka campus relocation and co-location. trauma recovery services of many types. Long term plans for construction of permanent supportive housing units/condos.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Great presentation about Transformation Village. Impressive capital campaign to bring it this far to fruition. Excited to hear more about the many collaborations taking place, from ADATC/Helpmate to Horse Sense/ACT, to AB Tech. Interested as well in how the transition goes, and the phasing in of additional services, structures, and partners on site.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Asheville Area Arts Council

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Presenter was very well prepared, had a comprehensive PowerPoint, and provided a full and detailed presentation that responded to all of the site visit and mid-term prompts. The impacts of Covid were very well documented.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I gained a much better understanding of the AAAC and of its pivotal role as facilitator across the dynamic and varied arts community in Asheville and Buncombe County.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Asheville Humane Society

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Amazing stories of the preservation of animals.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Amazing stories of the preservation of animals.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Asheville Museum of Science

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Amanda Bryant and Megan Walker are very apt leaders of AMOS during this critical time in what would otherwise have been a high growth period for newly imagined museum. They have had to make major COVID adjustments due to the in-person, hands-on nature of their exhibits, outreach, and curriculum. They have already updated their curriculum to the Next Gen Standards which was an outcome in the grant, but additionally they have made it virtual to support teachers, and have created/sold/shared 135 Summer Camp Science Boxes, supported pod-learning, and had many thousands of direct online engagements with their content. They are working closely with the Science Content Specialist for Buncombe County Schools, touching 76 classrooms with curriculum supply kits scheduled for 3rd quarter delivery in line with standard course of study schedule. They are now open to visitors at 30% capacity, with goal to be leaders and examples of how to responsibly respond to the scientific guidance during COVID. Loss of revenue streams from tourism and summer camps is their greatest challenge. Federal and State pandemic response offerings for their industry tend not to trickle down to museums of their size, but they are applying for every possible option and may even get some rent relief from NC legislation. Amanda has a background working with FEMA, which is surprisingly relevant now in her role as AMOS ED.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I was certainly impressed with the experience and skill sets that Amanda and Megan bring with them, and commend their efforts in creating offerings that are helpful, relevant, and still inspiring during the pandemic. Every support provided to our struggling teachers and students right now is important. The examples you provided me were concrete and helped me understand how you are staying connected to your audience. I appreciate that you are engaged at the legislative level to pursue any industry relief and hope that the tourism partners in town are also serving as your advocates. I am glad you are able to safely reopen to visitors, even at 30% capacity, and should have asked if you were seeing enough in-person demand at the facility to meet that 30%, even while your student-focused programs remain virtual. My best to you, and thank you for your great work.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Babies Need Bottoms

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Unique program to provide diapers and wipes to 750-800 local children monthly.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Eye-opening presentation! Thank you!

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Babies Need Bottoms

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The co-directors of this program are exceptionally knowledgeable and well organized. The pandemic has greatly increased demand for diapers but also resources for obtaining large quantities of diapers, wipes and other items. The organization is in need of a larger storage facility with a loading dock to further expand their ability to receive large donations.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

You are doing an incredible job in serving children and families in WNC. I hope you are able to obtain a larger facility as I think the economic consequences of Covid and need for diapers for low-income families will continue for a long time.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is a well-resourced organization that covers areas of North Carolina and Virginia. This grant focuses on areas within Buncombe County. We learned that the National Park Service sets the priorities for the work of the foundation and for this reason, they are not taking on the trail maintenance project they initially proposed, but rather are now focused on work on the Craggy balds. I think it will be important to keep close tabs on the ways this organization focuses on benefits for Buncombe County since they have to balance their efforts amongst many stakeholders outside of the county. Further, I'm mindful of the advice we received from grantee leader at Project Lighten Up when we asked for feedback about equity work in the grant program. He said to think carefully about funding organizations with an existing deep financial network and focus more on finding excluded populations of nonprofits that haven't had as much access.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for an informative presentation on the work of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the progress on this grant project. I appreciate all the information you provided and in particular your questions to us about increasing the quality of your equity and inclusion work. Completing an equity audit with the support of a professional, especially a person of color, is a good way to begin the self-reflection needed to make progress. Our committee is working equity goals for the grant program now, and we will continue to keep you informed as we progress on our journey.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Carolina Small Business Dev Fund - Western Women's Business Ctr

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The project has adapted well to Covid challenges. In summer they shifted to online trainings and now are finding creative solutions to the lack of lending to new businesses. They are currently without a director, and the vacancy is limiting their spending. We encouraged them to think creatively about how to use the funds in alignment with their program proposal.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for an informative morning! It was wonderful to learn about the structure of the Western Women's Business Center and the ways you are adapting to the challenges of Covid19. I hope the November conference is a big success! We look forward to seeing budget amendment requests as you reallocate personnel funds to other areas of operations.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Children First/Communities in Schools

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The program staff demonstrated strong commitment for the work they do with students. The school support specialists serve as a partner to the school staff (i.e. social worker, counselor) to develop deep connection to students and families. During COVID, they are in higher than typical demand for basic needs.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for the time you gave for the site visit. Your passion and commitment to this work was evident to us. I was particularly excited to hear your thoughts on how Children First can leverage the relationships your staff are building during this high demand of COVID into enhanced services for students once the pandemic is behind us. That's a leadership perspective that fresh and exciting.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Children First/Communities in Schools

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Distribution of over 500 food boxes and over 350 backpacks of school supplies since August. Affiliated with Dropout Prevention, NC Child, et.al.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

none.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Eagle Market Streets

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The leader of Eagle Market Streets Development is a seasoned, knowledgeable professional. Her insights and experience are such an asset to this project. We learned about several partnerships with other local organizations that are strong and woven into the organizations work and positively impact this project. I didn't think to ask during the site visit, and now I wonder if there MOUs or contracts in place that formalize these partnerships. It could be informative to see how they define the various roles since partnerships are a powerful tool for maximizing impact.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for an informative and interesting conversation. I learned a great deal about community's assets and how your organization is leveraging them to benefit small businesses. I appreciate your innovative approach to partnerships with other organizations. I wonder what type of memorandum of understanding or formal contracts do you put in place to define the roles within these partnerships (e.g. Bow and Arrow, LLC, Chamber of Commerce, YMI, and Grind). If possible, could you share them with us in future reporting?

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Eagle Market Streets

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Ms. Swepson-Twitty is a wealth of institutional knowledge about economic development in Asheville, especially for the BIPOC community. I gained a deeper and clearer understanding of the work of EMSDC and the Incubate to Innovate program, as I would have wanted from an on-site visit.

- 6 small businesses that share their site at 70 S. Market Street, plus a variety of mobile, home-based or off-site businesses participate in the program being funded by this committee.
- Some partners include Up Staff Personnel, Umoja, Asheville Iridescent Yoga Studio, NC Block Tours, A1 Computers, Hot Crab Legs and Grits.
- EMSDC has curriculum developed with Sharon Oxendine, next phase is to roll it out to participants.
- EMSDC is now working with Grind Asheville, YMI, and Chamber of Commerce to offer co-working spaces for an “innovation hub”.
- Recommendations from EMSDC to increase our equity and inclusiveness: identify BIPOC-led orgs through cross-dialogue, ask grantees to self-identify in application, diversify the grant-making vehicle by partnering with CoThinkk to recruit committee members, share feedback from current BIPOC grantees about the ease of the process.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for the time you shared. I look forward to hearing more about the curriculum, and its impact on participants. I would be interested to read or hear feedback provided by one or more of your participant business owners. There are many, many sources for economic development activity and funding, with new streams of support due to Covid. It is difficult to keep track, but it is good that you do, and remain in collaboration with many local, federal, state, private and philanthropic funders.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Eagle Market Streets

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The project seems to be making progress towards its goals despite somewhat of a slow start.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for the report on your project. You seem to be progressing well towards your goals. It would be good to include more information in your next quarterly report about if and how your emergency support for rent and utilities for local businesses will impact funds available for other expenses in your project budget.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Environmental Quality Institute

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

This organization tests water quality in streams and rivers. Tests in streams throughout Buncombe county and western North Carolina analyze for ammonia, nitrogen, turbidity, etc. The EQI has been able to operate through the pandemic without any real hitches. They seem to have a good working relationship with local governments and private organizations wishing to make use of their data. The lab is able to employ interns every year from local colleges and universities, providing students with valuable work experience.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thanks for your informative presentation. Felt like I learned a lot. Impressive to have kept the organization going for so long. I liked the suggestion about partnering with recreational and beverage companies to sponsor test sites.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Environmental Quality Institute

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The EQI is a true grassroots effort to monitor the water quality of Buncombe County (and other WNC counties). Despite running on primarily volunteer efforts, the lab provides high-quality, long-term monitoring data used by many partners, including private entities, other non-profits, and government agencies. The EQI truly cares about the quality of their work and demonstrates a high degree of scientific skill. The dollars provided by the SPGC truly are multiplied many times over to support a healthy environment in the County.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

EQI's work is truly high-quality, grassroots science. I was impressed with the quality of the lab, data collection, and data analysis, especially considering the effort is primarily based on volunteer efforts. EQI is a model for citizen efforts to support regional scientific monitoring. The EQI truly cares about the quality of their work and demonstrates a high degree of scientific skill. The dollars provided by the SPGC truly are multiplied many times over to support a healthy environment in the County. Thank you for your dedication and passion for a clean environment in WNC.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Folk Heritage Committee

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The Folk Heritage Committee did a completely virtual Shindig on the Green and Mountain Dance and Folk Festival this year. There were 11 nights of programming between the two events. It was a mix of rebroadcast previous festival clips along with newly recorded live current music. They feel that everything was a success, and the viewers were in the thousands. They are an all volunteer committee working to keep this going on a very small budget and appreciate the grant committee and county for the funding.

One question posed by the grantee is what they can do to meet the county's expectations around diversity, equity and inclusion. They did their best to answer the question in the quarterly report but worry that they don't have any clear actions in mind related to expanding in this area. They are open to ideas.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

n/a

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Just Economics

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Just Economics is doing great work to support low wage workers by engaging community members in leadership and community-building. They are a very small paid staff of 3 people and the director remarked that all of their work is "interconnected." When asked about how they might define their work for the grant into a specific project to align with the commission's directive, the director described how challenging it is to delineate the work that way. They are responsive to immediate community needs that don't necessarily align with grant cycle timing. The idea that all nonprofits can and should work within the confines of project planning 9 months out from grant awards may not be reasonable. Conversely, the county may need to add content to the grant writing session that goes deeper in teaching groups how to define projects within the structures they already have.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for your presentation on the work of Just Economics. Your candor and clarity are helpful to the committee as we prepare for another grant cycle.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Just Economics

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

I was very impressed with how the organization has been able to carry on their work despite Covid restrictions and in some cases expand and deepen it. The director seem extraordinary - both highly qualified and highly engaged. Provided a very compelling rationale for scaling back on the Living Wage Certification Program. Have taken tangible steps to educate staff and board to address equity and inclusion.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I am very impressed with the work that you do and its importance to the community and particularly excited about your Online Workers Assemblies.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Literacy Council of Buncombe County

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The Literacy Council provides an important service to the community of Buncombe County. They demonstrated the individual empowerment, family well-being, and social justice that a literate population provides. They reacted to the COVID pandemic with strength, perseverance, and grace. Tutoring is a hard action to perform virtually, but they have done all they can to continue to provide this service. The funding that the SPGC provided to the Literacy Council is being well used and serves the County strongly.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you so much for your presentation, but more so for the important work you do. You clearly demonstrated that the Literacy Council provides an important service to the community of Buncombe County. The individual empowerment, family well-being, and social justice that a literate population provides cannot be understated. You have reacted to the COVID pandemic with strength, perseverance, and grace. Tutoring is a hard action to perform virtually, but you have done all they can to continue to provide this service. I am proud the SPGC has supported your efforts.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: On Track Financial

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

On Track is gearing up to provide their tax preparation program under challenging circumstances due to Covid19. They will have reduced capacity due to a smaller number of volunteer tax preparers and will be wading through the new territory of virtual service delivery. Despite this their staff are energized and creative to meet the challenge. They are offering a new mode of service called facilitated self-assistance where people can call for help in doing their own online taxes.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for the energy and creativity you are putting into the VITA program during this unprecedented year. I appreciate your honesty and openness during our site visit; our conversation created space for mutual benefit - thank you.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: On Track Financial

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

None that are outstanding

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I appreciated your candor and ability to fully answer our questions.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Pisgah Legal

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Pisgah Legal's service delivery model is sound; their holistic approach to client needs is strong. Their approach to performance measurement relies on the somewhat subjective assessment of the staff, and they remarked that they struggle to use surveys to gather information from clients about their services. They mentioned that they are increasing capacity to provide supports through social workers - this sounds promising.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for such an informative session together. The work of Pisgah Legal is vital to our community. I was happy to hear that your focus on equity/inclusion and on increasing infrastructure for use of social workers is ramping up. These are two areas of operations that are vital to serving excluded populations in Asheville.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Pisgah Legal

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Pisgah Legal continues to provides high quality legal services and works with a network of partners to help clients with their needs. It is a large and complex organization with over 60 funding sources. I think that the legal assistance they provide is an essential service in our community. They seem to have risen effectively to the challenge of a larger workload due to Covid-related issues.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I think you are doing an incredible job providing essential legal services to our community.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Project Lighten Up

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The organization had to serve many fewer children than expected (15 instead of 100+) because of Covid19. The organization still needed all of the funds to make the pivot to a smaller program in order to comply with CDC recommendations. The pastor shared ideas with us re: racial equity. He noted that often Black led organizations have much smaller funding streams (in number and amount), and that feels like a primary source of inequity. He suggested we could examine the range of access to funds that an organization has when thinking about how to prioritize our funds. He also suggested looking closely at the wording in the application for words or phrasing that could represent bias.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for inviting us into your church to see first hand the way youth are nurtured in your organization. The lessons you've learned during the Covid19 pandemic will be a benefit to you and to us as we all continue to face the challenge of serving kids in person. Thank you also for the insights you share with us about our grant-making program; your experience and knowledge are so helpful to us.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Project Lighten Up

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Unfortunately, Project Lighten Up only enrolled 15 kids this summer rather than the normal 100+ due to the reluctance of parents to send their children this year. Of course, that is 15 children who were given a leg up this summer. We were given a tour of the Rock Hill Missionary Baptist church, where the camp is based, by the Rev. Spencer Hardaway who directs the camp and after school programs. The church, built in 1896, is a large, solidly built structure with plenty of room both inside and out to accommodate a large group of children. There were approximately 12 to 15 children in the building during our visit enrolled in virtual programs. The children, aged pre-school through middle school were well behaved and seemed to be working hard. I was impressed with the facility, the staff and the dedication of the all involved.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I was most impressed by the work you do in your camp and after school programs. Helping young children is one of the most important areas the county can be involved in. I would encourage the camp to apply for county funds in the future.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Read to Succeed

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The organization has done tons of work to change their service delivery from in person to online. They have smaller capacity at this time because of the change to online, and they are working to increase it steadily. They're approach to equity work is sound; they are only at the beginning of this journey and have a grounded approach to how they can be effective. They are a mostly white organization with mostly white volunteer tutors serving a large number of Black children. While they would love more diversity in their tutoring pool, they recognize the reality that they also must invest in training white tutors to be culturally appropriate.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for the time and energy you gave to us during this site visit. The information you shared painted a clear picture of the outstanding work you have done to move to online service delivery in these unprecedented times. I appreciate that in addition to the Herculean task of changing modalities, you also are staying focused on creative ways to address root causes of literacy challenges. Your investments in family support and early education supports are very exciting.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Read to Succeed

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Disruptions to in-person schooling and high demands on the educational systems has posed major challenges for this program as the schools have been the referral and scheduling source and site for child-volunteer meetings.

I think the program has taken great initiative to address these challenges, including technical challenges, but will nonetheless be hampered by the pandemic and stresses on the school system.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I think you have done a great job in surmounting the huge challenges of transitioning to an online system. I think it may be more difficult to engage students who are already being worn out by online learning. However, I think the online tools you developed will be beneficial when we return to the "new normal" perhaps by being able to expand volunteers and services to offer both online and in-person sessions. I think it will be important to keep volunteers engaged even if they are not able to match with a student this year.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Reed To Succeed

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Amazing recovery during COVID-19. From live tutoring to virtual (hard to do with the early primary grades.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Enjoyed your fact-filled presentation.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: The Mediation Center

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The Mediation Center is doing an excellent job of offering a quality service while maintaining new safety requirements for Covid19. When asked about how they would be impacted by the requirement for 3 year time-limited projects, they expressed that they focus on an ongoing need and do not take on projects that can promise an end point. It's concerning to think that they will not be eligible for this funding after two more cycles without knowing how they might seek county funds in a different way. How likely is it that the county will create new contracts outside of this grant program for ongoing needs? Considering that we have learned that other organizations were told to seek this grant because they wouldn't be eligible for county contracts any longer (i.e. Pisgah Legal), I am unclear if there is any path for funding for this organization beyond year three.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for a clear and informative presentation and discussion. Your commitment to children and families is outstanding, especially given the obstacles you are surmounting in these unprecedented times. As a former family support professional, I am heartened by your use of Triple P and encourage staff to keep gaining skills in its implementation.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: The Mediation Center

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

This organization and program was very well-run, with great consideration for the details of their service. They adjusted in a logical fashion in response to COVID-19. They provide a valuable community service that assists children in difficult situations. These funds are very valuable to the community.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thanks so much for the great presentation with all those important details. Also, thanks for bringing 4 staff members to answer our diverse questions. I appreciate the service you provide to the community and your professionalism and dedication!

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: The Mediation Center

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

The program has faced enormous challenges to provide visits for children with non-custodial parents in the face of Covid restrictions, including renovations to space and procedures for visits. They appear to be doing a great job under very difficult circumstances.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for your presentation and answers to our questions during the site visit. It was fascinating to learn more about how the visits work and how you are addressing the Covid challenges.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Under One Sky Foundation

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Under One Sky is a smaller-scale organization than many of the others but has potential to have a big impact on the young people it serves. Covid is having an impact on recruiting foster children into the program. One-day camps appear to be successful in allowing mentees and mentors to interact, allowing mentees to feel a sense of family and community roots.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Thank you for your unique and valuable work to provide mentorship and support to foster children.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: Wortham Center for Performing Arts

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Excellent and dynamic presentation. Hosts included two performers from the Student Scholars program, and a local dance company gave a taste of an upcoming performance. a full tour of facilities was provided.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Appreciate the effort and organization around the site visit. Continued success in navigating the Covid environment and in partnering with artists in the community.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: YMCA

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

We reviewed 2 funded programs:

-Swim Equity Program. Re-opened with 12 students from Asheville Middle School's In Real Life program. Gains made for the children but attendance was inconsistent. Challenges to implementing program this year include hesitation of parents to letting kids in water, proximity to teachers, drop off instead of watch lessons, teachers from previous participating programs still hesitant as well. Free community swim currently canceled, request for this to resume from community. Aquatic instructors trained on Covid safety and using full face shield/PPE.

-Getting Ahead. Cohort moved to virtual. Challenges include developing connection among cohort when remote, distraction from kids at home, completion rate down from previous 100%, but already adjusting course to reach more women. Case management includes outdoor home visits, devices, diapers, food boxes, since pandemic. Women out of work due to pandemic and lack of childcare, makes financial goals difficult but many women young and aspirational despite challenges. Housing, Childcare, and (living wages) remain resource gaps.

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

I was so impressed with how you all have adjusted your programming to meet needs in this new environment, from doing drive-by home visits to drop off materials, to the food box and diaper deliveries, to the PPE for aquatic instructors. I found myself wondering if the lift for the Swim Equity program might be too high for parents and schools this year, and if there was a way to convert-- temporarily-- to more of the Community Swim model, targeting the same families and reserving slots for limited numbers of parents and children to have free time in the water, maybe with an instructor on hand to offer guidance and comfort. Just to keep the kids getting in the water and exposed to the environment. I am sure that brings up many issues that I am ignorant about or that you have thought of, but based on our conversation I just wondered what ways we can offer people flexibility, and connection to the YW and the water. Thank you for your time and for all your hard work.

FY2021 Strategic Partnership Grants Site Visits

Grantee: YWCA

What information would you like to share with other committee members who were not able to attend this site visit?

Both grant funded programs are ramping up. Expect their numbers and impact will be reduced due to Covid. Very dedicated staff

What feedback do you have for the grantee?

Site visit could have been better with some preparation of either using the technology (Zoom/ Teams) and/or preparing an update in written format. Harder to convey progress just in oral comments.