



United Way of Forsyth County



Building a Thriving Community Community-Wide Education Programs 2022-23

Our strategic priorities focus on building thriving households in Forsyth County across the economic spectrum, which is inclusive of health, education, housing, workforce development and other basic needs. Our Community-Wide Education investments explicitly concentrate on providing support for programs which are designed to demonstrate achievement in reaching the shared community goal of:

Increase 3rd grade reading proficiency from 52% to 90% by closing the educational equity gap by 2025, resulting in a 90% graduation rate.

Research shows early grade reading mastery is one of the best predictors of children's later successes in school. Early language and literacy development plays a key role in supporting learning experiences which are linked with academic achievement, reduced grade retention, higher graduation rates and enhanced productivity in adult life. Reading is a critical predictor of high school success or failure. This is because children are learning to read until fourth grade; after that, they are reading to learn.

Our funded Education Programs address the strategies below:

- ❖ ***Support evidence-based learning programs starting with Kindergarteners (only) to ensure their progress towards achieving appropriate literacy benchmarks (foundational support to ensure reaching grade level literary benchmarks) that measure and enhance developmental and academic success, and social and emotional learning.***
- ❖ ***Support high-quality, community-based tutoring for at-risk children (Grades 1-3), measuring the children's progress toward grade level reading.***
- ❖ ***Support community-based summer learning programs for at-risk children (K-3) to prevent summer learning loss in reading and math skills.***

Agency: Action 4 Equity

Program: Freedom Schools Summer Programming

Forsyth Freedom Schools is a six-week summer program designed to increase literacy, self-esteem, socio-emotional skills, and a love of learning for children in grades K-12. United Way of Forsyth County (UWFC) will be funding 55 K-3 students at two Freedom School sites in Forsyth County. Through a research-based and multicultural program model provided by Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools, students are inspired participants, known as “scholars,” who spend their summer learning about and believing in their ability to make a difference in themselves, their families, and their communities, with hope, education, and action. Freedom Schools programming encourages scholars to embrace their cultural history and reinforces confidence in their abilities. Throughout the program, scholars will build their personal libraries, establish dedicated reading times, attend field trips, and become energized for learning through the morning rally (“Harambee”) which includes singing, cheers and chants. Freedom Schools are led by young-adult teachers and mentors known as Servant Leader Interns, who come from diverse backgrounds and help scholars envision themselves as future college students, advocates, and leaders. During the six weeks, the program encourages the parents of our scholars to be engaged in their child’s learning through informational meetings in the summer and multiple volunteer opportunities.

Agency: Big Brothers Big Sisters

Program: Site Based Mentoring Program

This program focuses on children, between the ages of K-12 grade, primarily include those from single-parent homes, who have been identified by teachers and/or school guidance counselors as ones who would benefit from having an additional friend/mentor. UWFC funding will focus on serving 56 children K-3 at two Title One Winston Salem/Forsyth County (WSFC) elementary schools. Mentors will meet with their students during and/or after school, for generally, at least one hour. The program also plans to employ professional paid mentors who will provide weekly group mentoring while “Littles” wait to be matched with their one-to-one mentor. Activities range from reading together and working on homework to playing games or simply listening and talking. Group activities will utilize a curriculum focused on reading, social and emotional growth and on personal accountability. The goal is to support high-quality, community-based tutoring for at-risk children (Grades 1-3), measuring the children’s progress toward grade level reading.

Agency: The Salvation Army

Program: Ken Carlson Boys & Girls Club

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club seeks to provide an after-school program to keep kids safe by providing a positive environment where they can learn, play, and grow. The program serves youth ages 5 - 18 from 38 schools in the WS/Forsyth County School district during non-school hours, the club provides a safe place, supportive adult mentors, fun, friendship, and high-impact youth development programs. UWFC funding will focus on serving 80 children K-3 at the Club. The program has three main strategies to create success for every student including accredited curriculums in academics, character development and healthy lifestyles. Specifically, K-3 students will use this time to hone their reading skills through physical, auditory and online books, educational games, worksheets, and online activities associated with accredited reading curriculum. This specific emphasis will incorporate early literacy programs and best practices, early screenings, individual reading plans, interactions with teachers and parents and periodic assessments to determine progress.

Agency: The Salvation Army

Program: Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp seeks to provide a summer camp experience to keep kids safe by providing a positive environment where they can learn, play, and grow. The program serves youth ages 5 - 18 from 38 schools in the WS/Forsyth County School District. UWFC funding will support 110 K-3 students in the summer camp. Youth and families benefit from our holistic impact model and wraparound services, aimed at building the academic aptitude, health awareness, leadership skills of their youth. The summer program incorporates a variety of educational games, worksheets, reading time, STEM experiments, online academic curricula, a fully stocked library, partnerships with community organizations that promote reading and individualized tutoring to not only reduce summer learning loss but also promote learning gains. The Club offers accredited programs like Summer Brain Gain that halts summer learning loss and also lead to gains in math and reading for many young people.

Agency: Winston-Salem State University

Program: The Reading and Math Summer Camp (RAMS-C)

The RAMS-C Summer Camp is a 6-week camp for 160 K-3 students, in which academic tutors instruct students to assist with their retention of concepts. This camp assists in reducing the summer slide or regression once students return to school after summer. The camp consists of focused reading content, specific to students' performance level and learning modalities which will prepare them for the upcoming grade. All strategies ensure participants are on track towards grade level reading by third grade and utilizes Learning Modality Inventories (LMI) to gain information on how K-3 grade participants prefer to learn related to literacy, comprehension strategies, and mathematical reasoning. This program builds literacy skills and mathematical reasoning, supported by research-based activities creatively aligned with NC curricula. The program's key activities will incorporate a daily routine of reading and math literacy strategies in the morning and supplemental learning opportunities after lunch. Participants will rotate through two 90-minute rotations based on achievement (pre-test) data. After lunch, students will work in small groups on specific learning strategies from reading and mathematics. In addition, participants will engage in interdisciplinary learning opportunities in STEAM including, arts, music, media, and technology. At the end of the day, participants will engage in reading and math circles where they will explore extension activities.

Agency: Winston-Salem Urban League

Program: Read URBAN

Read URBAN seeks to increase reading performance for 40 low income, rising third graders who attend a Title One school via a six week intensive summer reading program. Read URBAN scholars will attend the program Monday through Friday. The program will target one WSFC elementary school for this program. The program, based on Harlem Children's Zone literacy success programming, "Read 2 Succeed" will use interactive, modern, intensive instruction to boost reading performance. Scholars will focus on comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonemic awareness and phonics. Programming will include instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening and small group activities. Program goals include stemming summer reading skill loss; increasing reading skill where possible and preparing scholars for 3rd grade reading proficiency testing.

Agency: YMCA

Program: Summer Learning Academies

The goal of the YMCA's Summer Learning Academy (SLA) at the Fulton Family YMCA is to close the socio-economic opportunity and achievement gaps between minority students and white students and economically disadvantaged students and non-economically disadvantaged students, ensuring every child regardless of income or background, can learn, grow, and thrive. The program is designed to provide differentiated and targeted academic support to kindergarten through third grade students in core subject areas with a primary focus on reading. In the Summer of 2022, the Fulton SLA will meet the following objectives: 1) Provide a summer experience that prevents summer learning loss and prepares and excites students for the coming school year. 2) Primarily focus on improving reading proficiency for kindergarten through third grade students; 3) Employ certified teachers to provide tutoring and academic instruction; 4) Create a differentiated learning environment utilizing a variety of learning modalities. This 10-week program incorporates the best parts of the Y's traditional day camp with the middle 6 weeks of the summer focusing on reading proficiency for rising 1st through 3rd grade students. Students will participate in 12 hours of academic instruction a week during the SLA portion of the program. Tutors hired from our feeder school will provide instruction in a 1:10 tutor to student ratio.

Agency: YWCA

Program: Best Choice Center - Academic After School Programs

The Best Choice Center's mission is to help at risk children succeed academically and inter-personally. The center strives to ensure children ages 5-9 (K-3rd grade) are on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade. UWFC funding will serve 42-50 5-9 (K-3rd grade). 92% of Best Choice parents/guardians earn incomes that are 150% of the poverty level. Certified teachers and staff assess children upon entry to the program and based on the assessment work with them through tutoring and mentoring to improve any deficiencies that may exist. The After School program provides: • Certified teachers; • A computer lab; • Healthy snacks, hot dinner after school: breakfast and lunch during camp sessions; • Parent-friendly hours - open until 6 pm Monday-Friday; • Transportation from school to the Center; • Gift cards quarterly to students named to the honor roll. The certified teachers and Best Choice staff work with the children on homework, test preparation, and school projects. They provide a hands on mentoring environment for children to learn with The Crosby Bigs for Success program. It complements the academic work with confidence and school functioning skills.

Agency: YWCA

Program: Best Choice Center - Summer Camp

The Best Choice Center's mission is to help at risk children succeed academically and inter-personally. The center strives to ensure children ages 5-9 (K-3rd grade) are on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade. UWFC funding will serve 70 children K-rising 4th graders. The Best Choice Center Summer Enrichment Camp maintains a critical focus on reading and math over the summer. Certified teachers and staff assess children upon entry to the program and based on the assessment work with them through tutoring and mentoring to improve any deficiencies that may exist. During the camp the children spend the morning in enriching activities that keep them engaged in reading and math. The summer program works to ensure

children ages 5-9 (K-3rd grade) are on track to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade. The program encourages parental involvement and staff/parent collaboration in promoting the students' success. Summer camp provides: -Certified teachers; -Teaching assistants; -Experienced and well-trained staff & counselors; -Breakfast, lunch, healthy snacks; -Computer lab; -Parent friendly hours - open from 7 am to 6 pm; -Swimming lessons, tennis lessons, basketball at the YWCA wellness center; -Field trips to science museums and performance venues in the state; -Career Day with inspirational speakers; -Exposure to arts, music, entertainment.