

## ARPA Early Childhood Community Grant Impact Highlights

### 1. Book Harvest

- **Project Description:** This project brought dynamic, interactive, and engaging community-based places and spaces, in-person story times, and abundance of free books to under-resourced youth in Durham, NC.
- **Award Amount:** \$150,000
- **Performance Period:** 7/26/23 – 6/30/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - Provided **522 Storytime Literacy Kits**, packets designed to support early reading and writing development, to children across Durham.
  - Delivered **97 storytimes and literacy programs**, reaching a total of **7,166 Durham families**.
  - Book Harvest expanded the Book Hub program by increasing **locations from 33 to 103** and distributing **160,598 high-quality, free books** to stock the Hubs.
  - Completed a renovation of the organization's Family Space, enabling expanded storytimes, children's book clubs, and literacy programs. A total of **97 sessions** were held, and monthly **participation nearly doubled**, from an average of 230 children to 470 children per month.

### 2. Built2Last

- **Project Description:** Built2Last expanded training opportunities for childcare centers and home day care operators with the goal of increasing capacity in high-need communities.
- **Award Amount:** \$250,000
- **Performance Period:** 6/29/23 – 6/30/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - **100%** of respondents from a participant survey indicated they were "very likely" to recommend the training to peers, **89%** felt "very confident" in applying what they learned, and **89%** had applied at least one strategy or tool introduced during the training.
  - **92%** of participants reported increased confidence in financial literacy and 70% in developing and submitting grant applications.
  - **64%** of participants reported modifying their daily nutrition offerings or adding child wellness activities as a result of the training.
  - Participants reported significant achievements, including **filing for non-profit status**, expanding, and developing business resources.

### 3. Museum of Life and Science (MLS)

- **Project Description:** This project developed, delivered, and evaluated early childhood programs in the new Play to Learn exhibit. The Museum's newly redesigned and expanded early childhood space, Play to Learn,

brought new opportunities for enriching the lives of our community's youngest learners through hands-on, inquiry-based learning.

- **Award Amount:** \$125,000
- **Performance Period:** 9/25/23 – 12/31/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - During the period of performance MLS delivered over **1,300 programs** including **story times and workshops**, reaching over **27,829 participants**.
  - MLS's **early childhood programs** have become **extremely popular**, with **attendance exceeding projections**, and participants **exceeding satisfaction projections and growth** in critical thinking skills.
  - During the period of performance MLS **established their early childhood program** and expanded **access to early childhood STEM programming for low-income families**.

#### 4. Early Years — Building the Business Side of Child Care (BSCC)

- **Project Description:** This project aimed to build capacity for childcare through business training, coaching by skilled specialists, structured peer mentorship, and grants to family childcare homes, small centers serving children on subsidy and to informal care providers seeking licensure.
- **Award Amount:** \$800,000
- **Performance Period:** 5/25/23 – 5/31/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - BSCC provided a ten-week training program to **20 Family Child Care Homes (FCCH's)** serving **110 children in Durham**. The course included topics such as marketing, contracts, risk management, and budgeting and savings.
  - **100% of FCCH providers reported an increase in knowledge and skills** gained through training and technical assistance.
  - **100% of FCCH providers reported less financial stress** and greater satisfaction after completing the training.

#### 5. Reach Out and Read (ROR)

- **Project Description:** Reach Out and Read's model, integrating the promotion of foundational relationships through early literacy into pediatric healthcare.
- **Award Amount:** \$110,000
- **Performance Period:** 10/21/23 – 8/31/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - ROR aimed to encourage health care providers to order books that best represent the families they serve to spark and guide conversations about important topics (e.g., child's milestones)
  - During the period of performance **100%** of sites had access to the book showcase and provider training supports.
    - The book showcase brings diverse titles to the clinic, encouraging providers to explore titles.

- ROR piloted and integrated **3 specific parent partnership** processes through this project.

## **6. Diaper Bank of North Carolina**

- **Project Description:** Diaper Bank of North Carolina (DBNC) helped remove barriers to education, employment, and wellbeing by ensuring that low-income and high-poverty families in the Durham Housing Authority's Public Housing Program have an adequate supply of diapers and wipes for their children.
- **Award Amount:** \$280,000
- **Performance Period:** 9/15/23 – 12/31/25
- **Major Highlights:**
  - Between January-June 2025:
    - Diaper Bank of NC distributed **98,470 diapers** through their mobile distribution program in Durham. These diapers covered **1,969 babies**, and the **in-kind reporting value is \$42,342.10**.
    - Diaper Bank of NC distributed **20,580 period products** through our E-Hubs in Durham. These period products served **1,029 menstruating individuals**, with an in-kind reporting value of **\$8,849.40**.
    - With the help of **35 volunteers** and **5 community leaders**, DBNC completed **42 distributions** across **6 neighborhoods**.