Quality Improvement Grant Reporting

Qualitative Data

June 7, 2017
The following are answers from the QI Grant report form question, “Please explain how these funds helped your program.”

As a tuition preschool program, we are funded solely on tuition received. Our classroom materials were starting to look pretty "tired." Before we received the grant, we had to make the decision to either (a) purchase new materials, or (b) raise staff salaries. We chose to slightly raise salaries to retain valuable staff. This grant boosted not only the beauty and effectiveness of the classroom, the morale of the staff who will now work in the "revived" environments, but the pride of the students and families who participate in our program.

We purchased the Hatch System to use in all 10 our preschool programs. All of our classrooms use Creative Curriculum and TS Gold. The Hatch System allows 112 preschoolers to play learning games on an ipad that is directly linked through software to the teachers TS Gold account. Teachers have been able in individualize plans for children. The outdoor play equipment has been an asset to large and small motor play as well as social play.

The grant funds helped me create a listening and reading center so that I can help support the literacy development of the kids. I was also able to purchase several art materials to extend the children's self-expression. I also purchase a new computer to extend my parent communication and shelving to help better organize my space.
I wanted to add to my parent resources and increase parent involvement; I was able to purchase books about increasing parent involvement and a complete set of transitioning to kindergarten materials. Using these books and dvd's I can hold parent informational meetings which will provide needed information to the parents as well as fostering a partnership between us.

We have been able to add to the environment of our program by adding materials in active play and by supplying plentiful materials in various areas of our classrooms. We have also have been able to logically locate and plan where our interest areas are and give those areas adequate space with the furniture purchased.

Provided diversity materials for all classrooms as well as materials for indoor and outdoor play. Also provided NAEYC membership with Young Children magazine for all staff to keep them up to date as to early childhood curriculum.

The funds from this grant have helped me provide a higher quality program for the children, families and as a business in whole. I was able to purchase items that I otherwise could not have provided for my business. I purchased items that will enhance my ability to communicate and provide resources to families, many items to increase access to developmentally appropriate materials, and items to increase children's cultural and diversity experiences in my care.
The open-ended materials are all being utilized within our classrooms. These materials link directly to our curriculum - the Project Approach and allow our teachers to plan lessons that stimulate children on many different levels.

This Grant improved the learning areas by well supplying the areas with materials for children to play with. The areas are divided into interest areas with new cabinets where children can access the toys and books independently. The reading area has nice pillows and a carpet to sit and browse through books.

With the items purchased I have been able to increase the amount of materials available in each interest area. This has allowed children to gain independence and make personnel choices based on their interest. I am looking forward to continue seeing the growth in each child in my care.

The funds were an incredible part of providing further education requirements for teachers, parent involvement/communication, as well as encouraging creative, investigative skills through the numerous open-ended materials that were purchased. The computers and Ipad along with the purchase of GOLD as an assessment tool allowed families to become more involved and engaged in their child’s early education experience, a very rewarding part of our school community.
Awardee Report Photos

The report form included the ability for awardees to share photos. Uploading photos was an optional component of the QI Grant report.
Photos

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Photos
Photos
Awardee Report Narratives

The report form included the ability for awardees to share additional narrative about their success utilizing Quality Improvement Grant funds. Including additional narrative was an optional component of the QI Grant report.

The amount of work each of our teachers are expected to put into their classroom planning, being a Nationally Accredited Program, can sometimes be overwhelming. The use of this technology will allow the teachers to provide new ways to document learning, increase the quality of the lessons, and increase the ways in which teachers can communicate with parents. The teachers have found that the technology has even allowed them to make more home/school connections as well. When students come in to school and talk about a new interest/video/vacation destination the teacher uses the technology to enhance the relationship by pulling up videos/music/pictures. This creates stronger relationships with the students, and families, which can be sometimes difficult to do.
-Child Care Program, Dexter MI

I am thrilled to be able to offer more options to the children because of the additional storage options to keep the younger children safe. The new lockers are a big hit with children as they are learning to hang up their own coats and store their projects in the cubbies. They are enjoying the career dress up clothes to explore different jobs. And they love being able to bring more toys outside with us because of the wagon.
-Family Home Child Care Program, Flushing MI
Awardee Report Narratives

The report form included the ability for awardees to share additional narrative about their successes utilizing Quality Improvement Grant funds. Including additional narrative was an optional component of the QI Grant report.

We feel very blessed to have received these funds to help provide better quality for our early childhood program. This amount of money has made it possible to provide our children with new learning activities, more plentiful toys, more open ended opportunities, and a classroom that will prepare them for not only school but real world experiences.
-Group Home Child Care Program, Coopersville MI

All the children were extremely excited to help decide what we needed and to find it and then actually get to use it once it was here. The parents all seemed very excited about our steps towards improvement.
-Child Care Center, Scottville MI

Thank you for this grant. It inspired us to create an outside classroom, and has changed outside play for children.
-Child Care Center, Gwinn MI