



STEP REPORT

FFY JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023



ABOUT STEP

The STEP Program is a grant funded partnership between Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services. STEP can assist active Food and Nutrition Services/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants in Buncombe County to increase their professional skills, earn new credentials, and boost career opportunities.

Through the STEP Program, eligible students can receive trainings & certifications for in-demand jobs, advising & career coaching, supportive services, transportation assistance, financial assistance with books, testing materials, etc., and assistance with resumes, cover letters, interviewing skills and employer connections.

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BOA STUDENT SUPPORT

For FFY '22-'23, STEP was able to use Bank of America's generous funding to provide extensive supportive services to STEP students. STEP was able to successfully assist students with overcoming technology issues, transportation barriers, tuition assistance, testing and examination fees and other supportive services.

Bank of America financial support has been vital to the success of STEP students as they work hard toward their goals, and we are incredibly grateful for BOA Support!!



BOA SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS!!

\$10,000 +

Student Support

\$5,000

Gas Cards

8

Laptops

- STEP was able to provide over \$10,000 in student supportive service funds. These monies were used to pay for car repairs, utility bills, licensures, etc.
- STEP was able to provide over \$5,000 in Ingles Gas Cards to assist students with transportation barriers
- The STEP Program was able to purchase laptops for Continuing Education and Curriculum students. Students were able to check out the laptops from STEP Staff.

SUPPORT STORIES

Kathy is a great example of the benefits of the BOA-STEP partnership. She joined STEP in Fall 2022 to enhance her medical office administration career. Despite years of working hard, she faced limited opportunities for growth and struggled financially. Thanks to STEP, she enrolled in an Electronic Health Record class. Kathy began searching for better employment in 2023 and faced housing instability. BOA funding helped her with rent and tire repair until she secured a new job. Now, she works for a company that offers higher wages and career advancement!



Ms. Star joined STEP after becoming the the sole family provider. Her goals were to transform the farm into a Non-Profit and pursue education in mental health for therapeutic care. Despite financial challenges, she attended classes on non-profit development, and created a solid business plan. While working towards her non-profit goals, securing a second job in mental health, she faced housing, electricity, and car emergencies. BOA funds, along with county support, ensured she had essential utilities and repaired her vehicle. Her farm has recently achieved 501c3 status, and she continues her mental health education.

STEP OUTCOMES

STEP was able to successfully serve over **195** students for the FFY '22-'23 year. We assisted them with Career & Employment Services, advising them on educational pathways & educational opportunities, tuition assistance, and other services aimed at helping students stay in classes and obtain needed certifications. These supports allowed our students to gain access to increased wages.

STEP was able to bring on a third full-time person in a new role as a STEP Career Navigator. This person will be able to assist students with career services that weren't previously available. Our clients averaged wages around **\$17.20** per hour, and none of this would be possible without the generosity of Bank of America!

Enrollment was up over **28%** from the previous year, and we are on track to assist even more participants. We were able to maintain a participation rate of over **50%** this year, and hope that number will continually increase.



DENTAL
CLINIC



Angelina is going into the 2nd year of her Dental Assistant Program. She completed her GED while enrolled in STEP and hopes to become a dental hygienist. With Bank of America's generous grant, we were able to support Angelina for her first semester in the Dental Assistant Program.

Lyric Jones earned her A.A.S in Medical Laboratory Technology in May 2023. As a successful A-B Tech graduate, Lyric will be transferring to Winston Salem State in the Fall to obtain her Clinical Laboratory Science B.S.





LOOKING FORWARD!!

The STEP Program is still interested in starting alternative educational pathways for our students. We have looked at the Self-Supporting funding model, and we are hoping to offer two training pathways in the Fall semester. Our goal is to offer something in the healthcare field and something in the service industry.

Bank of America financial support has been vital to the success of STEP students as they work hard toward their goals, and we are incredibly grateful for BOA Support!!

FUNDING SHIFT AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

With the reduction in state funding, STEP was thankful to be able to use Bank of America funds to support students for the Summer '23 semester. We were able to successfully provide over \$10,000 in assistance to both continuing education and curriculum students. Additionally, these funds will help us assist students for the Fall semester as we wait for an official announcement from our state funder.

Hopefully, if there are future opportunities for STEP to collaborate with Bank of America, we can continue to provide financial assistance for our students. Without the generosity of Bank of America, we would not be able to assist our students, and cannot express how grateful we are for the \$150,000 that we received.





STEP SERVICES NUMBERS

FFY JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

3
ELA
61
Con-Ed
109
Curriculum



112
Participants Currently Enrolled



91%
Of Participants Identify as Female