



We are pleased to announce four \$1,000 mini grants are available from Women United funds in June 2021.



WOMEN UNITED FUNDING NOMINATION FORM

Agency: Bruce Drysdale Elementary School

Program Name: Flexible Seating for Classrooms

Agency Contact: Eric Gash, Principal; elgash@hcpsnc.org

Your Name: Anna Hicks Email amhicks1217@gmail.com

- ❖ Does this agency/program support the areas of education and/or self-sufficiency of women or children?
__x__Y __N
- ❖ Is this agency/program located in Henderson County? __xY __N
- ❖ Is this a school based program? __x_Y __N
- ❖ Is this a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit? __x__Y __N

**In order to receive funding, agency must be able to provide a recent 990 or audit.*

Description of agency/program:
Flexible Seating for Classrooms

With flexible seating, students have a home base where they receive most of their instruction and store their personal learning materials. At designated times during the day, they are allowed to choose other places and seating options. There are several benefits for students experiencing a flexible seating classroom. First, students feel empowered when they have choice and some control over their environment. Secondly, students practice self regulation and know when they need to be in a different setting to learn. Next, with flexible seating,

students get to move, improving overall health and focus. Being able to wobble, rock, bounce, etc. on various types of seating gives students an outlet for that extra energy helping them to remain focused academically. Lastly, a variety of different seating provides more comfortable options allowing students to make better use of all areas in a classroom as they spread out to work and collaborate with others. One will find flexible seating classrooms to be inviting and engaging for students as teachers create a child-centered environment.

From Principal Eric Gash:

“It would be nice to have flexible seating in the classroom. There’s a lot of research showing a correlation between the subtle movements that flexible seating allows and an increase in student focus and engagement. It makes classrooms more accessible for students, increases student engagement, and opens the room to a variety of learning styles. It allows teachers the ability to use the flexible seating options as a motivation for learning in a different setting while still in the classroom. It would be a great benefit to our students to have that option to sit on a stability ball, wobble stool, or a Zenergy ball chair. It would satisfy their urge to maintain movement while learning. These flexible seating options would be a great benefit to the BDS school community of learners.”

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Gash, Principal Bruce Drysdale Elementary School

How are you connected to this agency/program and/or why are you passionate about their work?

I have worked as a parent volunteer at Bruce Drysdale Elementary for four years. The majority of children who attend Bruce Drysdale live in households with incomes below the poverty level and are at a socioeconomic disadvantage to their peers which influences their performance in the classroom. The staff of this school work tirelessly to find innovative ways to create nurturing learning environments to reach children with many different learning needs, often spending their own salaries to do so. I would love Women United to support the vision of the Bruce Drysdale staff who feel having flexible seating options could improve learning for many of their students.

Best Regards,

Anna Hicks, MD

Women United Member