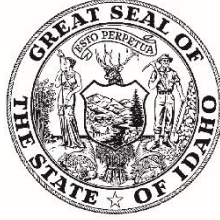


**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

**Wendi Secrist**  
Executive Director



**Deni Hoehne**  
Chair

**John Young**  
Vice Chair

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### **Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2022  
**Time:** 9:00 AM-10:00 AM  
**Location:** Zoom/In-Person\*  
317 W Main Street  
Boise, ID 83735  
2 West Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
<https://zoom.us/j/97039391898?pwd=VHJVT3M2TmtGdzJvRWxRaXQ0R2x4QT09>  
Meeting ID: 970 3939 1898  
Passcode: 704544

**Committee Members:** Sarah Griffin, Emily Allen, ~~Beth Oppenheimer~~, Erika Rupp, Anna Almerico, Ben Davidson, ~~Caroline Merritt~~, Steven Laing, Martin Balben (proxy for Beth Oppenheimer)

**Staff:** Amanda Ames, Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck

**Guests:** Krissy Veseth

**Called to order at 9:02 a.m.**

**Welcome**

**Roll Call** – Quorum Met

**Review Agenda** – No changes to the agenda

#### **Committee Organization**

Members introduced themselves.

#### **Timeline for Policy Development**

The goal for the Committee is to get the applications open as quickly as possible and the money working in Idaho. The Committee will need to have a monthly meeting. There are 3 meetings in May because of the pending deadline to get a policy recommendation to the Full Council by June 8. Once the policy has been approved, the goal is to have the applications open by June 10. Ms. Secrist and Ms. Ames have been meeting with 4-5 entities a week who are interested in the program.

The original recommendation from the Governor was \$50 million to support Child Care Expansion Grants. The Legislature trimmed the budget back to \$15 million. The funds were approved for the Council for FY22 and FY23. The funds are coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which stipulates that the funds have to be obligated by December 1, 2024. The grantees will have until December 2026 to be reimbursed.

The WDC staff hopes that more funding will be added to the WDC budget to augment the program for at least another year.

Discussion:

It seems like the easiest option will be to organize the policy similar to the standing WDTF policies. Is there one grant program in place that is the closest to what the WDC wants to do with the Child Care grants?

- Innovation and Industry Sector grant policies are the closest. Staff have already outlined the sections that need to be addressed.

### **Next Steps**

The Committee will need to think through how to prioritize and accept applications (e.g., have set submission dates, accept applications on a rolling basis, etc.).

Ms. Ames reviewed a draft of the Child Care Grant Policy Outline. Please see attached document.

Ms. Secrist reviewed the Child Care white paper. Please see attached document.

Discussion:

Should employer be broadly defined as any public, private, or non-profit entity?

- The Committee is in support of this definition.
- The employer will have to offer childcare and expand or start a new program.

American Falls has been able to create a universal pre-school. In the system, American Falls has a pre-school provider at the elementary school and two private pre-school providers. All three are on a shared application for coordinated enrollment. They treat their wait lists all the same and adequately compensate their staff. This is a system the Committee might look at for best practices.

Ms. Rupp has been asking other state entities, discussing similar initiatives, to provide her samples of their work to help the Committee move along. There are other states that are a few months ahead of Idaho in their work. Ms. Rupp will take the pieces of information she is receiving and put them into a document to share at the next meeting.

The Committee needs to think about the mechanics of the match definition.

- A scale for match requirements could be created for the application allowing small providers to come in at 50% while larger projects could have higher requirements.
- How in-kind is defined is going to be important.

It would be helpful to create a rubric for the Committee to use when reviewing applications.

- Ms. Griffin will start thinking about how a rubric can be utilized for this program.

It would be helpful for the Committee members to look through the business guide that is on the WDC site prior to the next meeting. It gives a good idea of the different kinds of applicants the Committee might see.

Ms. Ames reviewed the FAQ. Please see attached document.

The Committee is going to have to watch for what entities are paying their staff in the submitted sustainability plans. Increasing pay for their employees is going to be important. There needs to be some guarantee that entities do not go back to paying low wages once the grant funding is gone.

Ms. Secrist will talk to the Division of Financial Management to see if there are any options for providing up-front funding for small providers. All the Council's programs currently utilize a reimbursement model which has worked well.

The WDC has a minimum of \$4 million to support small providers (less than 15 seats available). One of the concerns is where the WDC will find these small providers and how to do outreach to them. Some of these individuals will want to start an at home business. Ms. Secrist had a conversation with University of Idaho about having their entrepreneurship program help address some of these concerns and plans additional conversations with the Women's Business Center and Small Business Development Center.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.**