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Executive Director



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John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Committee Members: Sarah Griffin, Emily Allen, Beth Oppenheimer, Erika Rupp, ~~Anna Almerico~~, Ben Davidson, Caroline Merritt, ~~Steven Laing~~

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Paige Nielebeck

Guests:

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Rupp to approve the May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Davidson. Motion carried.

***Draft Child Care Expansion Grant Policy**

Ms. Ames reviewed the Child Care Expansion Grant Policy draft. Please see attached document.

Discussion:

What are the requirements to use the childcare business guide?

- The business guide would be required as part of the application. If an organization already has a business plan that addresses the same topics, it would be allowed in place of the business guide.
- Maybe the policy language could include “business guide or equivalent documentation”.

In-kind should be defined or we should provide a tool for the entity to track their in-kind and send it in with their application.

- Ms. Oppenheimer has a few resources that might help define in-kind.

In Idaho the definition of “high quality” is best outlined through the Idaho Stars Steps to Quality Child Care. There are about 200 business that are currently engaged in the steps to a high-quality program, which leads to a national accreditation. The guidelines of the program could be used as the definition of high-quality.

- The steps to a quality program might also point towards the sustainability requirement.
- Why are so few entities going through the steps? Would smaller childcare facilities or in-home childcare facilities find the program to be a hindrance to applying?
 - It is a voluntary program, but there are incentives for those who go through the program.
 - There are two different paths in steps to quality depending on the size of the program. It is not an easy program. The goal is for the entity to learn how to run a quality program. Licensing for childcare facilities in Idaho is low and is not a meaningful representation of a quality program. Having them go through the steps to quality will help ensure the childcare programs are quality.
- In the rubric, a score could be provided based on if the entity is already in the program, wants to start the program, or is not interested in the program. It would be better to use this as part of the qualitative review versus excluding an entity who does not want to be part of steps to quality.

Is there a minimum or maximum of employers the applicant needs to partner with?

- This is something that can be addressed in the rubric. A percentage could be used to determine the level of the employer’s involvement since actual numbers could disadvantage small providers.

It might be beneficial to score applications based on the ages of the children being served. Infant and toddler care are harder to come by.

The committee prefers not to have a scale for match requirements. The document will be changed to state a minimum of 50% match and then additional match could earn extra points in the rubric.

Ms. Secrist is working with DFM to find out if the WDC can provide funding up-front to the smaller childcare providers based on comments from the committee. At the most, the committee is willing to consider 50% up-front and the providers would have to meet certain requirements to receive the 50%.

- Ms. Rupp has an example exemption letter she can share with Ms. Ames.

Does the Committee want to have application deadlines?

- The Committee would like to have deadlines for the application submission.
 - The recommended dates are August 1, October 1, and January 1.

In the performance metrics, something should be included about the impact on the workforce.

Ms. Secrist and Ms. Ames will go back through the policy and make the edits from today. At the next meeting, the Committee will review the policy and make a recommendation to the full council. The rest of the time will be reviewing a draft application and start working on the rubric.

Links provided during the meeting:

- https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57ab3678be659454809bc46e/t/61e8acb1a4a59f26fb2aa282/1642638518044/ChildCareCenter_ENG_InteractiveWeb_5+v2+updated+12Jan2022.pdf
- <https://idahoaec.org/resources-for-business>
- <https://idahostars.org/Parents/Choosing-Quality-Child-Care/STQ-Regions?page14035=1&size14035=12>
- https://issuu.com/boppenheimer/docs/pdg_b5_statewide_needs_assessment_early_childhood
- <https://idahooutofschool.org/data-and-research/>
- <https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=20244&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS&cr=1>
- <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/child-care-providers/becoming-child-care-provider>

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.