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Executive Director



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John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson Street, Suite 131, Boise, ID 83702

Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, October 14, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Amanda Ames, Cassie Mansour, Rebecca Watson, Paige Nielebeck

Guests: Tana Vanderholm, Jennifer Stoneman

Called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review October 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Merritt to approve the October 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Almerico. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grant**

The Committee wants to thank Staff for their help updating the wording of the rubric.

Lucky Duck Preschool

The Committee would like to move this application to the next meeting so the members can dive into the newly submitted materials and come back to this application with a more comprehensive understanding.

Little Me with Daycare

The Committee discussed the criterion of “enabling businesses and employer consortium” from last week’s meeting.

- The Committee is of the opinion that this applicant does not meet this requirement.
- The applicant submitted evidence of a grant receipt to evidence this relationship which does not meet the requirement in the policy.

- For this reason, the Committee will stop scoring this application and move on. If this applicant submits more evidence of business or employer partnership in the future, this will be reconsidered.

Tamarack Resort Daycare

This submission is in the childcare desert highest area of need.

Tamarack is creating this daycare specifically for their employees' children.

Ms. Merritt recuses herself from scoring discussion on this applicant.

This application focused less on the number of childcare seats, and more on staff retention and less burnout. It also focused on drop-in care. They anticipate being able to provide slots for 20 additional children, but the data is not as robust or complete due to the seasonal nature of the industry in Tamarack. The Committee agrees that it's not fair to penalize them for not having this information.

The Committee discussed the question of high-quality care and debated the evidence the applicant submitted. The lack of any mention of Idaho STARS was a sticking point for the Committee.

The Committee agrees that Tamarack definitely has the ability to follow through on their business plan.

The Committee is very pleased with this applicant's planned wages and benefits.

Is this applicant offering free childcare to all resort employees or just all daycare employees?

Sustainability comes into question with the exorbitant cost of offering free childcare.

Treasure Valley YMCA

Idaho Power, Boise Cascade, and many other employer partners are supporting the Y. The Committee expressed concern that these partnerships are not necessarily earmarked for childcare but felt that the Y has an existing childcare component, making this concern less than black and white. The Y and several of our other applicants (like Boys and Girls Club) are masters of capital fund-raising, and therefore may just get this partnership component by default. The employer partnerships the Y engages in are many, diverse, and creative. The Committee discussed this issue at length, reviewing the requirements of the policy, and agreed on an exemplary score.

Ms. Griffin acknowledged that she has a bias in the question of high-quality care, because she took her (now almost adult) child to the Boise downtown Y for childcare when she was a baby, where she received excellent care.

In recruitment and retention, the Committee reviewed the criteria we have for this category. The Committee also identified a discrepancy between two areas where the applicant listed pay (\$10/hr & \$15/hr).

Is this new facility going to be in addition to their current facility or are they replacing it?

- This is a \$70 million project, covering a vast set of improvements.
- As far as we know this new facility will be replacing their current facility.
- The Y will be using their current facility until the new facility is available.
- The staff clarified that the requested funding is contingent on the number of childcare slots opened by the applicant, not any subjective sense of improvement.

Children's Learning World LLC DBA Storybook Cottage

This application had consistent scores from the Committee, as it met all the requirements of documentation and was therefore very easy to score.

Adventures in Daycare

This applicant submitted confusing documentation.

In employer partnerships, this applicant listed the free and reduced cost CPR certifications which they provide to other small childcare providers.

The Committee agrees that this is an applicant that would probably be deserving of grant funds, but due to the lack of a business partnership, this particular applicant doesn't meet the criteria.

The Committee acknowledges that it is likely that they will have a built-in bias toward excellent grant writing and would like to make a point to prioritize small providers who may not have the most polished applications, and no dedicated grant writers. The Committee referred back to the language of the policy and came to the conclusion that this application should be sent back to the applicant and ask for more information on employer/business partnership.

Boys & Girls Club Ada County/Kuna

This applicant meets all initial criterion. This is an interesting project; in that they are providing care for all ages rather than just an after-school program, as Boys & Girls Clubs are wont to do. This applicant qualifies for exemplary scores in many categories. The Committee had very aligned scores for this application and scoring this application proceeded quickly.

Cookies N Milk Daycare

This applicant is licensed by the city but is not enrolled in STARS as a quality provider. This application doesn't meet the requirement for providing high-quality care in Idaho as identified by the CCEG policy. This is not a factor that eliminates their application being scored, as staff can continue to coach the applicant. This applicant did not submit sufficient supporting documentation.

In employer partnerships, this applicant excelled but their scoring suffers in high quality care. The Committee expressed concern that without documentation this application doesn't demonstrate sufficient evidence of excellence in care provision.

Childcare Committee Updates

The committee is interested in the question of smaller childcare businesses accessing fiscal bookkeeping or CPAs. If they are a one-man show, they wouldn't have that ability. The Committee reviewed the challenges we are facing in navigating awarding very limited dollars in a way that is fair and equitable to all applicants and is also encouraging accountability for the funds. As it stands now, we are probably not going to have enough qualified applicants to tap out the full \$4 million which has been set aside for small providers.

Ms. Secrist discussed Wonderschool and what it would cost to integrate them into the next round of applications.

There is a disconnect between the accountability we must demand for the dispersion of funds, and the desire to provide funding to smaller providers who can ill afford the technical assistance to document with this level of precision.

We are making great progress and have made a lot of headway. This has been a labor of love. We are emotionally invested, but we realize that we will only have the funding to apply toward a fraction of these applications. The Committee recognizes the need to request more funding in the future for this worthy endeavor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.