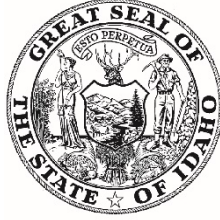


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

Wendi Secrist
Executive Director



Deni Hoehne
Chair

John Young
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

514 W Jefferson St, Ste 131, Boise, Idaho 83702

Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, November 4, 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, Rebecca Watson, Cassie Mansour

Guests: Tana Storybook, Troy Oppie – BSPR

Called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review October 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Davidson to approve the October 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Griffin. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Adventures in Daycare (follow up)

Discussion:

- Originally this applicant had included offering CPR classes as their employer partnership, which the Committee had determined didn't meet the criteria established by the policy; since then, they have updated their application to include an employer partnership.
- The applicant also updated the number of child care spots they will add.
- As the Committee reviewed this application, they were closely aligned with scoring.
- As relates to the operator's capacity to complete the project, the committee discussed that this provider's history was enough to score this one at exemplary, but the low pay and lack of benefits listed caused the Committee to drop this to a Reasonable score as retention impacts capacity to complete.

Micron Technologies

Discussion:

- The Committee agreed that this partnership with United Way was strong.
- This application received very closely aligned scoring from the Committee.
- The Committee noted that Micron is making a very large investment, and comparatively are asking for a low percentage, but the Committee noted that this proposal is requesting a significant amount of funding.
- The Committee will consider partial funding allocations.

Tiny Tots Learning Center

Discussion:

- The Committee noted that the Employer partnership for this application was a referral system, and not reserved spots. The Community partnership was strong for this application however, which led the Committee to an exemplary score.
- The Committee agreed on scoring, noting that this application was excellent with a detailed business plan.
- High quality care was discussed, and the Committee noted that the applicant is planning to hire workers with more expertise to help train and float between sites. These individuals will be paid more for their experience and training.

The Little Red Roost

Discussion:

- What is the Community Council of Idaho?
 - This is an organization that focuses on serving migrant workers among other things. They are very involved in the community.
- The Committee was in favor of this model of employer partnership.
- The Committee reflected that this applicant's business is in Payette which is in the 4th quartile of the childcare dessert, but truly all of Idaho is hard pressed for quality childcare.
 - The truth of the matter is that while the whole state is a childcare dessert, the areas of most need are even harder up than this.
- High quality care had split scoring. The Committee discussed that this applicant had a strong plan, seeking out training for employees to improve their certifications. However, this applicant is unwilling or unable to increase pay to improve employee retention. Yet they have done extensive financial forecasting for their business plan.
- Does this applicant receive community stabilization grants, or are they receiving relief dollars that they are relying on to continue?
 - This applicant lists grant dollars in their revenue listing. If the applicant relies on them, they may not be a reliable source of funding as some of these relief funds expire at the end of June 2023.
 - The Committee reviewed the applicant's documentation and determined that this likely referred to funds received in the past, rather than funding they were relying on to continue to operate.
- The Committee will hold off on scoring this section until staff can get some clarification from the applicant.

Luna's Early Learning Academy

Discussion:

- This application contains an example of exemplary employer partnership.
- This Committee discussed the challenge for a new child care provider in providing a business plan: this applicant plans to pay above market, and provide benefits, while charging a reasonably low rate

for child care. This provokes the Committee to address the concern that it may be too good to be true, and that this might not be sustainable.

- The Committee reflected that we must take the application at face value, wish them the best and score that.

Get Ready to Learn, Kuna

Discussion:

- This applicant is working with My Place Preschool and Kuna School District for their employer partnership.
- The hours of operation seem to be in flux.
- This application does not seem to present a clear path to sustainability according to the business plan. The cost determination lists the per child cost per year is \$108,000. This may be worth clarifying, as this is either a mistake or misunderstanding. The Committee would like to skip scoring the Business plan, get clarification, and then return to this line next time.
- This applicant stressed staff training and development; this supports retention and satisfaction.
- Fiscal structure for this application is also in question. The Committee requests clarification before scoring.
- This applicant demonstrates capacity to complete this project in spades by their excellent relationships with employer partners.

At this stage, Mr. Balben had to step out of the Committee meeting to attend another meeting. The Committee will wait to score the last application on today's agenda until we have quorum. After some discussion they determined that the CCEG Committee will meet at our regularly scheduled time on 11/18/22. Potentially this meeting could be shorter than 2 hours. If a few other applicants respond with more documentation, the staff will prepare and send those out for scoring.

Ms. Secrist presented to the Committee a few financials:

- Fifteen applications from the first wave were over \$500,000; seven of these are over \$750,000 and eight are over \$1 million.
 - Supporting higher dollar amount requestors might benefit expanding capacity.
 - The idea of offering partial support is compelling because it allows the WDC to partner with robust organizations in expanding capacity for the state. Spreading the money throughout the state by attempting to set aside funding for less established entities is so important.
 - The committee would like to support organizations that would otherwise not have access to funding of this nature.
- The staff will connect with this round's applicants and determine the minimum threshold for their project's success.

Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.