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Executive Director



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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 18, 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: Jennifer Stoneman, Tana Vanderholm

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda –

The staff informed the committee that there is new information on the Treasure Valley Y.

Motion by Ms. Bade to add a discussion of Treasure Valley YMCA to today's agenda. Ms. Almerico seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review November 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Bade to approve the November 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Balben. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

United Way SCI – E Street

Discussion:

- The letters submitted by this applicant were from consortium partners with a strong commitment in their community. Cliff Bar and Chobani are among these partners. The formal documentation to prove a partnership or the possibility to “limit themselves financially” were a challenge in showing employer commitments, but the Committee recognized the strength of these partnerships.
- The sustainability of this project would be significant due to the size and connectivity of United Way in the community. The low wages are a concern for the committee due to sustainability long-term.

- The fact that the United Way owns the building raises the likelihood that they will be able to complete the project. The building is dilapidated and quite old, so will need upgrading and remodeling. The United Way has a lot of experience managing federal grants and of directing large projects.

Little Me

Discussion:

- This provider came back with a partnership with a parent of a child in their care to provide deep cleaning once a month in exchange for discounted childcare. The committee agreed this is an excellent example of a to-scale relationship.
- The new staff of this provider is the grandmother of the business owner. The committee recognizes that this relationship would indicate that this employee has a vested interest in the success of this business beyond that of wages or benefits. The committee was therefore able to raise the score in this category.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Magic Valley

Discussion:

- This applicant was originally scored by the Committee in the very beginning of the application review process.
- The Committee had chosen to hold on review to see what other applicants submitted for their budgets. This was a less detailed budget with bulk costs lumped together.
- The staff reassured the Committee that the actual submission of costs will be line itemed during the reimbursement phase. The Committee chose a reasonable score for the budget of this application.

The Little Red Roost

Discussion:

- The cash flow tab reflected a \$10,000/month wage enhancement for the last couple years, that the applicant is expecting to continue for the next couple of years.
 - The committee agrees that this is risky to count on this as a guaranteed source of income as it is set to expire in July of 2023, even though there's a good chance that it will be renewed. The \$100,000 per year is therefore not guaranteed.
 - The applicant is possibly not aware that this income is not guaranteed.
- If we manually remove this line item, however, the applicant still shows positive cash flow, which leads the Committee to feel that this is still a sustainable project.

Tiny Tots Learning Center

Discussion:

- This application is to expand an existing daycare from Kamiah to Fort Hall. The initial application had indicated just the Kamiah location, and therefore the Committee requested more information. Fort Hall is North of Pocatello and is a significant childcare desert.
- The community agreed that Bobbi-Jo is an exceptional partner to invest in.
- This applicant might want to split her application into two so she could fit her Fort Hall application into the 12-or-less slots (small provider) category.

Get Ready to Learn, Kuna!

Discussion:

- Last time the Committee met, they had a couple questions for this applicant. The applicant had configured her business plan answer to cost-per-child as cost per classroom and had mistakenly answered the per-child cost to run a full academic year as a per-classroom cost.
- The provider is committed to providing childcare with reasonable costs to keep the program accessible to their families who pay full price.
- The Committee feels that this applicant has followed through with their commitments, and even though this application relies on future fund-raising, that they will be able to complete the project.

West Central Mountains Economic Development Council

Discussion:

- The Committee has not had enough time to review this application due to the late submission. They elected to take a short break to review the application since we have enough time to do so this morning.
- The Committee likes that this applicant is utilizing creative service techniques.
- This applicant is uniquely suited for this grant because they are a workforce collaboration and a training opportunity for students. The Committee reflected that this was the best application they have seen so far.
- This application was ineligible the first time they applied, so the willingness of the applicant to work with the team shows what a valuable partnership this will be in the future. In addition, this is the highest area of need in the county.
- The Committee commended the staff for the coaching that led to this being such a strong application.

Treasure Valley YMCA follow up

Discussion:

- The staff had a follow-up conversation with this applicant on Monday.
 - Essentially, their application showed that this applicant is not opening new child care slots the way it is currently written. Basically, they are closing the doors on their current child care business. Then opening a new one.
 - This seems to remove this application from the purview of the Child Care Expansion Grant the way it is written. They are not just expanding nor strictly opening a brand-new facility.
- The Committee discussed eligibility parameters for this application.
- The Downtown YMCA proper is undergoing an expansion. This is a massive campaign.
- This is a good child care provider, probably one of the leaders in the state. Despite this, this application might not be a good fit for this grant the way it is written.
- The Committee recognizes there is a compelling need in this community for child care funding. The Committee also recognizes that we may need to seek guidance from the Council on whether this meets the requirements of the Child Care Expansion Grant.
- The consensus for how to move forward is that staff will reach out and give the applicant two options:
 1. The first option is to take the question of eligibility of the current application to the Executive Committee, and ultimately the full Council, for approval.
 2. The second option would be that the applicant can edit their application and request for their preferred scenario. This would involve the application being considered in a later round, which would give them ample opportunity to engage with the Committee further.

FAQ Discussion

The Committee is looking forward to gathering in person on 11/28/22.

Ms. Allen moved to adjourn. Ms. Bade seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.