

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 Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, December 2, 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: Kayla Eachus

Called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Children's School of Boise

Discussion:

- This applicant evidenced significant partnership documentation. The Committee was highly aligned in their scoring.

Giraffe Laugh

Discussion:

- This application did a good job of outlining the need in the region.
- They have identified a building to purchase.
- This applicant is in Ada County which is statistically the least severe child care desert in the state.
- This applicant has a very established fund-raising model which seems to support sustainability.
- The applicant did close their previous location on 9th Street within the last 6 months, however all existing child care slots were absorbed by other Giraffe Laugh locations, so there was no loss of child care slots.
- This application reflected an adeptness in the handling of grant applications and budget documentation.

- This was an excellent application from a provider whose mission is to serve low-income families.

Premier Kids Preschool and Daycare

Discussion:

- The committee discussed concerns about the proposed employer partnership.
- The applicant is trying to increase their quality-of-care by bringing in extracurriculars, but this applicant doesn't allude to the quality standard metrics that the state uses. Premier Kids is not enrolled in Steps to Quality or ICCP.
- The Committee debated whether to score this application due to feeling that some documentation was missing but opted to score what was submitted and then leave the option open to send back to the applicant if they would like to submit more info.
- The Committee also identified a question about how to fund this application – for 20 slots or 55 slots? Staff will reach out to the applicant to obtain answers to these questions.

Oma's Daycare and Little Light Preschool

Discussion:

- Mr. Davidson abstained from scoring this application because he knows the applicant.
- This applicant has an ICCU partnership, and it seems to be well defined.
- The applicant self-describes as having unreliable staff which calls sustainability and quality of care into question. After some discussion about how to manage this application, the committee decided to score the application as-is and then request more information.
- The Committee discussed steps to quality at length. After some discussion, and review, this applicant seems to be on track to begin the Idaho STARs steps to quality care.
- The committee agreed that this was a less detailed, less sophisticated application which makes it harder to score. The Committee is committed to coaching less sophisticated applicants to bring up their scores so they can be considered for funding.
- This applicant had listed a vague "in-kind" of \$100,000 in repairs without any details. The Committee requests more information.

God's Little Miracles (second look – moved to Round 2)

- Christ Community Church and Dunkley Music are the listed partners. The Committee debated whether providing a discount to church members qualified as an employer partnership. The Committee considered that the discount seems to be applied in the wrong way. The partnership is a discount to the church members rather than an employer partnership that supports their business operations.
- This applicant has completed the orientation for STARs Steps to Quality. Even though they are enrolled, however, their application does not speak to working toward quality.
- This applicant does not pay anywhere near market value, but it looks like the employees are family members, which may explain this inequity.
- The Committee mentioned that some of these scores are low. The staff questioned whether this application should go back to the provider for more information or if it scores too low across the board to make it appropriate for this grant.
 - Connecting this provider to the business cohort at Idaho STARs would potentially be a pathway to a more sustainable business model.
- The committee will refrain from scoring this until we have a chance to get additional information from the applicant.

FAQ Discussion

- The Committee recognizes that any applicant that does not score a minimum of 20/30 will not qualify for funding but should be assisted in any way we can.
- We are anxious to serve these applicants and one way of doing so would be to refer them to the Department of Health and Welfare to engage in the Business Cohort with Idaho STARs. This would help them build up their business plan and best practices to the point where they can thrive and be a better potential candidate for future grant rounds, if funding exists for those.

Mr. Davidson moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.