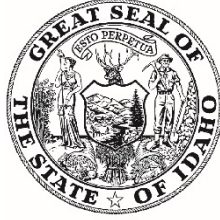


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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, December 16, 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: Amanda Ames, Cassie Mansour, Rebecca Watson

Guests: Kayla Eachus, Kylie Turner

Called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review December 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Bade to approve the December 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Balben. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Little Wonders Preschool

Discussion:

- Does this employer partnership align with our policy?
 - There have been other tenuous employer relationships.
 - This partnership seems to be loose, and lacking in robustness, but this is an attempt to meet this requirement.
- What does Senior Solutions do?
 - They provide secretarial skills and support for lesson plans and field trips.
- The difference between budget and business plan may be partially explained to the Committee by the fact that this applicant received significant coaching over the last several months. She submitted multiple iterations of the business plan or budget before landing on this final version.

- The conversation around sustainability started in staffing and retention, and then continued in capacity to complete project. This is a veteran business owner with a 19-year history of sustaining through 2 recessions, so the committee came to agreement that she has earned the benefit of the doubt, despite some missing documentation.

Chita's Kids Preschool

Discussion:

- Did the applicant refer to high-quality care in her business plan?
 - The applicant referred to engaging in Idaho Literacy Cohort and is taking steps to progress but is not currently involved in Steps-to-Quality.
- Do the in-kind matches listed qualify as employer partnerships?
 - The Committee determined that, yes, they could be considered a legitimate partnership.
- Wait lists, while indicative of child care needs and barriers in the region, are not a robust exploration of the child care desert or the barriers that this provider is breaking down.
- Discussion of high-quality care was minimal.

Baby Bee Daycare

Discussion:

Ms. Rupp commented to the Committee that she did not score this application due to time constraints.

- Hours of Operation were discussed; right now, they're at Reasonable, but they are attempting to move toward offering significantly longer hours of operation. This grant, if awarded, will help them meet that goal.
- This provider is part of a significant partnership in American Falls.
- This employer is working hard to promote retention and staff benefits, and the committee recognized this. Even though they don't score highly right now, they are commended for their efforts in this area.
- Lamb Weston is contributing to the creation of child care seats in the region, but the committee wasn't sure if this provider is part of that initiative.
- This provider increased the number of students she could serve.
- The Committee expressed interest in verifying the per-child funding numbers and how many child-care-seats the applicant will be increasing.
- Committee expressed that this is a well-established business with strong community support.

Mother to Mother

Discussion:

- This applicant wants to build a deck on her home to increase capacity from 1-6 kids.
- The will to apply for this funding shows that this applicant is willing to work for her business goals, but this application does not rise to the level of the policy that has been laid out.
- It would be hard to justify federal funds going to a remodel (roofing and decking) that is not an expansion of square footage. This is a challenge.
- The Committee commented that there is a version of this business plan that we could fund, but not in this present form.

WICAP October (R2)

Discussion:

- Kari from WICAP reached out to AEYC for help with questions on this grant application. Mr. Balben answered questions of this applicant. He states he did not help them with the budget but

did advise. He advised the committee that he would be recusing himself from this scoring and conversation.

- The Committee encouraged future requests for help to be routed back to WDC Child Care Expansion Grant staff.
- The Committee noted that this applicant is currently running a professional model that seems highly sustainable if the grant money they rely on continues to be available.
- The budget was strong. The organizations capacity to complete seems reasonable.
- The funding challenge for this applicant is that they rely heavily on grant funds.

Treasure Valley YMCA October (R2)

- This applicant went from asking for funding for 134 slots to 96.
 - The original application involved closing their current child care facility and then opening a new facility, resulting in a net zero growth of child care seats.
 - For that reason, their original proposal was sent back to them as not meeting the intent of the policy.
 - This version of the application is much clearer and seems to align very well with the intent of the policy.

Child Care Committee Updates and Group Discussion

- Would the Committee and staff be willing to consider a screening process?
 - An intent-to-apply survey monkey or some such screening tool might reduce bringing un-fundable applications before the Committee.
 - The Committee does not want to waste the time of applicants that will not be able to submit an application that aligns with the policy's intent. This may be a great solution.
- The Committee discussed changing the hours-of-service verbiage to reflect Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM being "Reasonable" instead of "Questionable" on the rubric, due to being a traditional model of daycare. This change will be made on the rubric and posted to the website, then will be applied to already-scored applications so that the Committee can compare scoring evenly.
- The Staff discussed possible submissions for the month of January.
- The Committee discussed their next meeting date and the expected work load for that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.