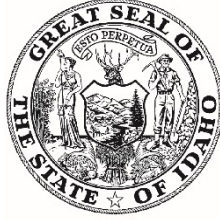


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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, January 6, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

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

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

Guests: Carrie Magnuson, Aubrie Hunt, Deborah (last name unknown)

Called to order at 9:02 AM

Welcome – Introductions

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review December 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Davidson to approve the December 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Balben. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Boys & Girls Club of Kootenai County

Discussion:

- Boys and Girls Clubs are not currently participatory in state licensing or IdahoSTARS. This is due to staff to child ratios and the fact that they hire teenage employees; however, Boys & Girls Clubs are not required to license.
 - The Committee felt that they should be consistent with the way they have scored other applicants. If they have referenced IdahoSTARS as the quality measure but have been open to other standards, then they should use that standard here as well.
- The Committee noted that this applicant provides transportation to and from school.
- Retention and recruitment were a point of discussion. This applicant rewards employees for referral of other candidates that lead to employment and for reaching work benchmarks.
- This applicant provides good pay and an array of benefits.
- The Committee felt that this organization displays capacity to complete and a clear fiscal plan.

Tiny Town

Discussion:

- This application demonstrates an awesome example of an employer partnership.
- They demonstrated a significant amount of local data and a long waiting list.
- This applicant is currently working on Step 4 in the Steps to Quality Standards.
- The Staff will reach out to the applicant to clarify whether this provider is providing free or discounted childcare to employees.
- The cost per child to the grant would be less than what was noted in the summary. The staff and Committee reviewed the numbers, and it is actually \$6,173/child.

Boise State University Children's Center

Discussion:

- The Committee noted that this applicant did not reference the gap study or other data in their discussion of need but did refer to their waiting list to demonstrate the need in Ada County.
- This applicant seemed to have limited hours.
- This is a thoughtful and strategic organization; the Committee noted that this project is highly sustainable.
- The cost was noted to be low per child.
- The Committee noted that the utilization of their pipeline of talent is a smart use of human resource - to funnel early childhood college students into the child care work at the university is creative in that it meets both a workforce and a training need.

TRICA (Treasure Valley Institute for Children's Arts)

Ms. Almerico noted that she knows this owner quite well and therefore did not feel comfortable scoring this application. The Committee noted that, as a group, they all feel that merely knowing a candidate is not the standard that they would use to disregard a committee member's input, but that this should be handled on a case-by-case basis and reference individual comfort level.

Discussion:

- There was not a lot of info in this application about how this applicant meets the most sought-after child-care needs in the community.
- This provider seems to have a higher than normal per-child cost for an after-school program.
- This provider seems to only offer a limited number of financial assistance/aid slots.

Updated Child Care Expansion Grant Rubric -

The Committee reviewed the rubric update to the Hours Served variable.

*Please note, this revision took place at the top of the meeting and these updates were applied to the applications reviewed today. In addition, the updates will be retroactively applied to previously scored applications.

Discussion:

- The reasonable score on the rubric states "Somewhat exceeds traditional business hours" as this is meant to accommodate the 8-hour workday with time for drop off and pick up.
 - The questionable score on the rubric should say "traditional business hours served" as this would communicate the intent without being heavy handed about those hours.
 - It could say, "*some combination of hours between 7:30 – 5:30 or 8 – 6*", to demonstrate flexibility, using the example to clarify.

- See the attached updated rubric.
- Any provider who serves non-standard hours should be scored exemplary.
- The Committee's suggestions were incorporated into the update and staff will post this revision to the WDC website.

Program Discussion & Forecasting

Preparing for January 20th In-person Meeting

Ms. Ames presented the data on child care grant proposals.

Discussion:

- Ms. Ames explained that applications for the \$15 million appropriated to the WDC have totaled nearly \$40 million in requests.
- Ms. Mansour also explained that even though the October round only encompassed five new applications, we will be considering either 12 or 13 applications and all applications from the first round that went unfunded.
- In response to the staff requesting how they can help facilitate the decision-making discussion during the in-person meeting, the Committee requested:
 - Data on Providers with more than 12 slots.
 - Regional data scored by Gap Percent with Scores for Large Providers.
 - They noted that the data on how many dollars have been awarded per region would also be helpful.

Committee Round Table

- The Committee discussed the challenges to the workforce and to child care.
- There are 2 reports coming out right now – one from Idaho AEYC, and one from Idaho First Steps Alliance, called The Unstable Footing Report. These two reports will be sent to the Committee for review to help inform our in-person grant awarding meeting on January 20th.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Almerico. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM