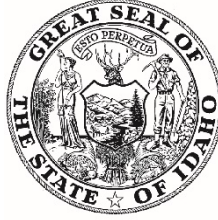


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Executive Director



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Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Child Care Expansion Grant Review Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, January 20, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

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

Guests: Lianne Lemons, Kayla Hardman, Alex Schritter, Kayla Eachus, Corey Crownhart, Lori Fascilla

Called to order at 9:07 AM

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review January 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Davidson to approve the January 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Allen. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grant Recommendations**

Ms. Griffin introduced the day's focus: making recommendations for the Child Care Grants from the first two application rounds.

- The Committee will be considering how shovel-ready the projects are in addition to the scores, gap, and regional funding from the previous round.
- The need is high across the state and the work that this Committee is engaged in will benefit the families of Idaho. The Committee is committed to using those funds in the most discerning, equitable, and effective way they can.
- The Committee will approach this funding conversation with a similar approach to the first funding meeting in November. That is, we will make the easy decisions first, and then attempt to make the more difficult decisions.

- There is nothing in the policy that states that we need to leave an exact amount in the large provider fund for the March funding meeting. We will make that decision as we move through today's funding recommendations.
- The Committee noted that Eastern Idaho and the Treasure Valley need our attention during this round of funding.

Small Providers

Ms. Ames presented the Funding Balance and Pending Requests of Small Providers. Please see the excel spreadsheet.

Discussion:

- Could we allocate our entire remaining balance to obligate today?
 - We shouldn't. We will have to reserve at least \$2.4 million in funding for small providers for the March 1st cut off point if we fund both small providers which are under consideration today.
- The Committee reviewed the shovel-ready data.
 - One of the small providers, Little Wonders Preschool, is not yet shovel ready. However, this provider will be adding 32 slots, which is very significant for the Idaho Falls area.
- As the Committee considered scores, they agreed that there is a need to create a separate rubric for small providers in the future, and potentially an additional one for after school programs, as well, since we are not comparing like with like.

Chita's Kids Preschool

- Who is the business partner for Chita's Kids Preschool?
 - This business partnership is with construction teams providing in-kind match. This does meet the requirements.
- The Committee opted to recommend Chita's for funding.

Little Wonders Preschool

- This is a small provider which is not yet shovel ready.
- The Committee considers that this is an excellent opportunity to offer funding with the contingency that this project must be shovel ready by June 30th.
 - The committee would like an update by March 1st to determine whether there is significant progress to enter into a contract before the obligation deadline of June 30.
- Is it too late to find this provider a more robust business partnership before we move forward?
 - No. It is not too late to connect them with employers in the area who are interested in partnering.
- Just as a review, the partnership here is with Senior Solutions, which brands itself as a consulting agency. They do not have a website, but they do have a Facebook page.
- The Committee likes the idea of recommending funding if they can get more shovel ready –
 - finding or securing a building
 - flesh out a more robust partnership.
- This is a region that is growing and expanding rapidly.

Ms. Secrist recommends making a separate motion to approve small providers from the one to approve large providers, since these will come from different funding "buckets".

Motion by Ms. Almerico to recommend approval of Chita's Kids Preschool small provider grant in the full amount of \$94,756 to the Executive Committee, and to recommend that staff continue to work with Little Wonders to provide an update by March 1st. Second by Ms. Oppenheimer. Motion carried.

Large Providers

Ms. Ames presented Data for Providers with more than 12 slots.

Discussion:

- The Committee reviewed the data of the after-school providers versus the traditional providers.
- The Committee discussed that due to having less funds to allocate at this point, they are going to have to consider which projects can wait, and which applicants can accept lower amounts and still move forward with their projects.

After School Programs

- **Boys and Girls Club Kuna** would be filling a significant need. This would fund a new state of the art facility in a town with few after school options.
 - The Committee considered different options in funding. We could potentially offer them partial funding since the Committee wants to encourage this project to move forward.
 - The Committee noted that their match is significant.
- The Committee discussed funding both **BGC Ada County/Kuna** and **BGC Lewis Clark Valley** at a lesser amount.
 - The WDC staff would go to each of these applicants and ask if a lower amount would provide enough that they can move forward with their projects.
 - If so, we will enter into contract with them, and if not, that money will go back into the bucket, and we will determine if we can fund the full amount in the next funding meeting. Even if they accept the lower amount, the Committee will review whether additional funding can be added at the next meeting.
- How many seats will be impacted if we allocate significantly less dollars than they requested?
 - Staff will discuss this with the providers and report back.
- The Committee considered that **Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley (Rupert)** is very close to being shovel ready.
 - Rupert has the highest gap percentage.
 - They are asking for \$600,000.
 - The Committee supports offering the same opportunity to this applicant.
- The Committee considered offering 30% of the ask to these three programs to see if these amounts would allow these projects to move forward.

Traditional Child Care Programs

- The **Children's Learning World** – the Committee recognized that we funded another large project in region 1 in our last funding meeting.
- The **Treasure Valley YMCA** - The Committee returned to considering the Capital YMCA project. Ms. Ames reviewed the iterations of this project and the expansion planned.
- For the **Micron** project – what would be a meaningful amount to enable them to secure federal grant funding under the CHIPS Act?
 - The ask for this project is \$1.8 million; the Committee would like to offer a fraction of the ask as a step toward helping them secure those funds.

- The Committee would like to include language in this offer that if additional funds become available in FY24, they reserve the option to allocate more funds toward this project in the future.
- \$100,000 could be a show a faith and a step toward further funding in the future.
- **Whole Child Early Education** (Large Center) – This region 6 project would be opening 41 new seats and has a significant match. The Committee has already funded their smaller project.
- **Baby Bee** – American Falls needs a child care center and the Committee noted that this provider is offering After School services in addition to traditional daycare.
 - Should we continue to offer lesser amounts, or would this be a candidate for full funding?
 - The Committee feels that this would be a good candidate for full funding.
 - Region 5 has a significant amount of funding right now, but they also have a very large gap.
- **Pocatello Valley Montessori** – this applicant has strong employer partnerships.
- **Giraffe Laugh** is adding the highest number of seats for the region. This provider is serving a very high need community, and the Committee feels compelled by this application due to serving primarily low-income communities.
- The Committee recognizes that they may want to hold funds for the January round. The potential is if all the “large provider” funding is allocated today, they will only have \$2.4 million left to fund a total of \$7.6 million in requests from the January round. *(After the meeting this number was revealed to be low, the final total for the January round is \$9.1 million.)*
- **WICAP** – This request is from Canyon County which is the area of highest need in region 3.
 - They are a high scoring applicant opening 134 seats.
 - The Committee notes that this is a large ask and discussed funding at a lower level.
- **The Valley Learning Center** in Star is partnering with first responders. This is a priority for FY24 funding due to the governor’s recommendation that \$3 million be set aside for providers meeting the needs of public safety personnel.
- The need is so significant that it far exceeds the available funding. The Committee notes that if we spend down the entire \$4 million today, we will still have \$2.4 million in March.
- Are we prioritizing low-income families enough in this consideration?
 - Funding WICAP, Giraffe Laugh, and Treasure Valley YMCA would meet this need as they have an explicit intention to serve families with limited means.
- If the Committee funds these projects in full, this would be over our funding allotment at \$4.7 million.
- WICAP could go forward with less, Giraffe Laugh could not, and the Treasure Valley YMCA may be able to start with less.
- The Committee recognizes that the **Little Red Roost** would be another very important project to fund as it serves rural communities and their commitment to provide preference to home health workers.

The Committee reviewed the data regionally based on the projects identified as highest priority:

Region 1 - none this time

Region 2 - Boys and Girls Club Lewis Clark Valley

Region 3 - Giraffe Laugh, Treasure Valley YMCA, WICAP, Boys and Girls Club Ada County/Kuna, Get Ready to Learn Kuna, Micron, Little Red Roost, and Chita’s Kids

Region 4 - Boys and Girls Club Magic Valley

Region 5 - Baby Bee

Region 6 – None; however, Little Wonders will likely be funded at the next meeting.

Ms. Almerico made a motion to recommend funding as requested for:

- **WICAP in full, \$924,664.33**
- **Baby Bee in full, \$360,000**
- **Giraffe Laugh in full, \$1,020,000**
- **Get Ready to Learn Kuna in full, \$75,000**
- **The Little Red Roost in full, \$101,670.71**
- **Treasure Valley YMCA, half requested, \$720,000**
- **Micron at \$100,000**
- **Boys and Girls Club of Kuna, \$450,000, at 30% of request**
- **Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley, \$180,000, at 30% of request**
- **Boys and Girls Club of Lewis Clark Valley, \$240,000 at 30% of request**

Ms. Merritt seconded. Both Ms. Bade and Ms. Allen abstained from this vote. Motion passed.

FAQ Discussion

The staff asked for input on what documentation would be helpful for the Committee next time.

The Committee reflected that the region, gap quartile, shovel-readiness, and scoring data is especially helpful. The Region and Gap form could have the score on it as well, as that would be helpful.

Ms. Allen made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM