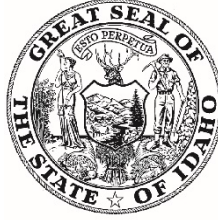


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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, February 3, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Committee Members: Sarah Griffin, Emily Allen, Anna Almerico, Renee Bade, Martin Balben, Ben Davidson, Lori McCann, Caroline Merritt

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

Guests: Aubrie Hunt, Liane Lemons, Kayla Hardman

Called to order at 9:03 AM

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review January 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Ms. Bade to approve the January 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Almerico. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Bright Stars Childcare

- The Committee engaged in discussion about the employer partnership.
- The committee agreed that the business plan was thorough in comparison to other similar requests.
- The committee determined that the capacity to complete was reasonable.
- The lack of an established CPA on the books was noted.

Caring Hands Daycare & Preschool LLC

- Employer relationship was again discussed. The Committee felt that this applicant did not have a legitimate partnership.
 - The cleaning service is only monthly, which in a daycare is not nearly enough.

- However, the Committee felt that this represented room to grow. The policy says, "Monetary contributions or donations/support of in-kind services necessary for the operation of the program."
- The relationship with the esthetician does represent a mental health partnership, but it is questionable if these services are required for "operation of the program."
- Ms. Secrist recommended finishing scoring the application and asking staff to work with this applicant.
- The Committee discussed the budget, and the estimation of costs for building. They acknowledged that the applicant did not specify that they had a contractor/bid/or permitting to build this additional building on their lot.

Discovery Christian Preschool

- The Committee sees that R & R Northwest is paying a quarterly fee to hold drop-in spots for their employees. This is an example of an excellent partnership relationship.
- This applicant is not participating in indicators to quality care.
- This applicant did not provide budget documentation as to benefits.
- The Committee agrees that as this provider has been in business since 1984 they seem to be highly sustainable.
- This provider includes free childcare as a staff benefit.
- The application covers their existing costs in the budget but didn't seem to cover the extra staffing costs that their application references.
- Staffing seems to be this applicant's biggest challenge.
- The Committee attempted to understand some unclear line items in the budget. Staff will ask for further clarification.

Lakewood Montessori

- Ms. Allen recused herself from the voting on this applicant as her child attends this Montessori school. For the record she stated that they have been happy with the care she has received.
- The Committee questioned how many children this provider will be adding: twelve or eighteen?
 - Staff will follow up.
- Ms. Mansour requested feedback from the Committee on how we should count added children. Some providers do not know how many children they will take on because if they add an infant, they will add fewer older children due to care requirements.
 - The Committee communicated that this doesn't matter too much if the low side of the spectrum is still within our policy limit.
- This applicant treats their employees as early learning educators in addition to being child care providers.
- This provider has very limited hours: 8 – 5. After much discussion the Committee concluded that this earns a score of a 1.
- The Committee noted that if this applicant is only adding 12 slots, this would exceed the allowable grant funding per child at \$22,500 per. If they are adding 18 child care seats, then they are right at \$15,000 per.
- Staff will follow up with this applicant.

Loly's Daycare

- This applicant's partnership is with a security agency which is a creative idea. The Committee discussed whether this partnership reflects the intent of the policy.

- The Committee also requested information on this applicant's in-kind match.
 - Staff shared that this applicant does not yet have this funding secured.
 - The Committee would like to table this application until this has been secured.
- Before moving on Mr. Balben asked what the staff does to ensure that these requirements have been met before funding a grant.
 - The staff assured the Committee that they conduct an eligibility review with each applicant in to ensure that all these requirements are in place before funding goes through.
 - The staff also reflected that the risk assessment confirms that the provider can meet the requirements of the grant.

Magic Stars Spanish Preschool

- This is a Spanish speaking provider, and this application will reflect the language barrier. Staff informed the Committee that there have been a few translation and interpretation services utilized to help this applicant.
- This is a small provider as the current application reflects, but Ms. Mansour clarified that this applicant has 10 spots currently, and will be adding 14, for a total of 24.
- This applicant is currently verified at a step 2 in the Steps to Quality framework but did not include this information in their application.
- The application stated 7:30 – 5:30 but the current operating hours are 8 – 4. This applicant has demonstrated a willingness to accommodate her clients in the past. On the Idaho Stars website, she has communicated an availability of 7:30 – 5:30 so the Committee opted to score that.
- The number of added child care slots on this application is incorrect. The total cost per child is just under the \$15,000 per child allowed.
- If we end up entering into a contract with this applicant we will verify that she has been compliant with reporting on other grants she's received.

Saggy Britches dba the Barnyard Daycare & Learning Center

- This applicant is in a partnership with Rocky Mountain Kings Construction.
- Even though this provider is in Ada County, they are in an area experiencing growth.
- This provider is at a Step 3 in Steps to Quality. The Committee acknowledges that this applicant was working on a level 4 and missed it by one point. They did not specify what was missing, but this still obtains a score of excellent.
- This is the only employer we have considered so far who provides retirement benefits.
- The grant funds and cash tabs are identical in the budget, but this is because this provider has savings they will use as an identical cash match.

Smart Start Academy of Emmett

- Mr. Balben opted to sit out on this scoring conversation because he had conversations with them during the development of their proposal.
- This employee partnership with the school district is a super-creative solution to staffing shortage.
- Early childhood workforce is a very important staffing need, so this reflects a pipeline to the career.
- This provider is not participating in steps to quality, nor are they licensed.
 - Is this a prerequisite requirement for our grant?

- If they are not serving children younger than 4-year-olds, by law they don't have to be licensed.
- This provider states in their business plan that they "adhere to all licensing requirements as outlined by Idaho STARS and the State of Idaho."
- The committee notes that in the application this provider states that they serve 3-year-olds.
 - This issue requires follow-up by staff.

The remaining applications were tabled until next week due to running out of time. The Committee agreed to meet next Friday at 9 AM to score seven applications.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 AM