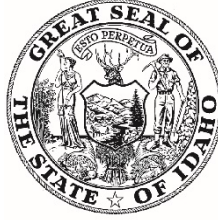


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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 10, 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 (5)

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

Guests: Liane Lemmons, Aubrie Hunt

Called to order at 9:00 AM

Welcome

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – No changes to the agenda

Review February 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Davidson to approve the February 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Almerico. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grant**

Teton Regional Economic Coalition

Mr. Balben recused himself from the scoring and discussion of this applicant due to possible conflict of interest.

Discussion:

- This application was very thorough and scored well.

Valley County Clerk's Office

Discussion:

- This application includes the remodel of a former senior center that belongs to Cascade School District.
- This coalition reflects strong community support.
- This applicant does not state which step of quality care they are engaged in.

- They are a brand-new program, so they would not currently be able to engage in STARS yet.
- The Committee noted that this applicant plans to pay above the area’s median wage.
- This applicant reported that construction on the remodel would take about a year.

Lil’ Rascals

Discussion:

- This is a new facility in Franklin County, replicating an existing facility.
- This applicant has three employer partners and will elevate their children to the top of the list. How will they manage this?
 - They are promising 15 total priority slots out of 75, first come, first served.
- This applicant has another facility in Utah, and the licensure standards in that state are more stringent than in Idaho.
- Pay rate is slightly below market value, but the applicant explains the costs and benefits clearly.
- The budget did not reflect income from tuition which seems strange.

Premier Kids Preschool and Daycare

Discussion:

- This is an application that the Committee originally reviewed in the October round.
- This partnership does not meet the standard set out in the policy. The policy states:

“The entity must partner with employers to increase or expand child care capacity. Examples of employer partnership may include:

 - a. Monetary contributions or donations/support of in-kind **services necessary for the operation of the program** (see examples in the Definition section below);*
 - b. Guarantee to sponsor slots on behalf of employers’ employees;*
 - c. Co-op/collaborative/coordinated enrollment model across multiple centers (not necessarily owned by the same entity) in one “system” to provide access to employees of the partners; or*
 - d. Other partnership arrangements, as approved by the Council.”*
- The Committee discussed the “services necessary for the operation of the program”. They felt that while the photographer did not meet the needs of the policy as written, the partnership with Ripple Wealth Management might.
 - After further discussion the Committee agrees that this area of the rubric earns a score of zero, as within the application they state that they hired Ripple Wealth Management as their financial advisor.
- Per Ms. Hunt, this applicant is not participating in steps to quality.

Wandering Adventures

Discussion:

- This partnership is with Lamb Weston and Koopin Farms.
- This coalition is strong, but the business plan does not explain this collaboration very clearly. The Committee reviewed the explanation of the partnership and saw that fund raising will be done for this applicant by a partner.
- In the scoring of child care needs and barriers, the Committee recognized that this applicant seems to skip thorough documentation in favor of the assumption that the Committee already knows the need.
 - In the past, the Committee has taken the position, that if it is not in the application, we cannot assume.

- The Committee recognizes that this applicant seems to want to do great things but does not outline how they will get there.
- This application does not give any information about wages for employees of this business.

Wilder Elementary

Discussion:

- This application referenced being sensitive to the needs of each child as their explanation under high quality care which doesn't meet policy expectations.
- Hours of operation are less than traditional.
- Staff recruitment and retention was better in that they are offering above market wage for the area. Also, since this provider is the school district, these employees will qualify for benefits.
- This application does not include revenue for tuition.
- The Wilder application falls into the small provider funding bucket. They scored very low to be included in the funding conversation. Would the Committee like staff to work with them to strengthen their application?
 - The Committee felt that this would be short a time frame to make all the necessary changes to their application to show a meaningful improvement but that they should be encouraged to make revisions for the next funding cycle.

Wings 2 Fly 123's and ABC's

Discussion:

- This applicant referenced High Quality Care but didn't outline how they would plan to provide quality care themselves.
- This provider seems very ambitious in the statement that they would like to eventually provide 24-hour care. The Committee recognizes how challenging this would be.
- This provider operates at a loss. This makes it hard to imagine that they would be able to stay afloat after the period of the grant.

Roundtable & Open Discussion

- Next week we will have a new application to score along with a couple that have been updated to review.
- The governor recommended that another \$15 million be set aside in the budget for funding for another year of child care grants. This includes \$3 million set aside for child care for first responders. As we move through the legislative process we will know more.
- Lakewood Montessori pulled their application after staff came back to them with questions.
- The Executive Committee approved the Child Care Committee's funding recommendations.
- The Committee discussed ARPA funding in other areas, and how important they are to sustaining child care around the state.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM