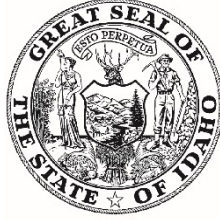


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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 17, 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: Aubree Hunt, Lianne Lemmons, Vijay Ilavarasan

Called to order at 9:03 a.m.

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. Allen. Motion carried.

***Child Care Expansion Grants**

Smart Start Academy of Emmett

Discussion:

- The Committee discussed needing some clarity regarding whether this applicant is currently serving three-year-olds or whether through this grant, they will be expanding to offering daycare services for children under four.
 - DHW has submitted a referral to verify this status.
- If this applicant is not pursuing STQ, can they still be seeking a NAEYC accreditation?
 - Yes, NAEYC publishes these accredited facilities, so we could research that.
- The Committee discussed whether this applicant had demonstrated they could sustain business after the period of the grant.
- The Committee noted that this applicant is using the grant funding to hire and pay staffing.

- They discussed that the applicant has a fiscal consultant in the form of an accountant to help with payroll.

Treehouse Early Learning Center

Discussion:

- The Committee agreed to go ahead and score this application except for the partnership aspect.
 - They will return to this if the provider submits partnership information.
- They Committee agreed that the child care barriers were only minimally explained in this application.
- This applicant expressed specific goals in STQ and are currently offering high-quality care per the state's quality rating and improvement system.
- The Committee noted that this grant request did not clearly outline whether the applicant could sustain a business since they provided such limited budget information.
- This looks like the best benefits package that we have seen thus far. Is the provider reporting what they are already doing or is this a projection?
 - This is something the staff can try to determine.
 - Looking at the budget, the vacation and sick leave allocated doesn't seem to be enough to provide for 20 staff members.
- The Committee agrees that they were hoping for a current report of what they are paying staff and providing in benefits, but what was submitted is a projection.
- What is the travel expense for in the budget?
 - This line item is for travel to an annual conference.
- This application does not seem to align with the budget. Is this applicant building a new facility or are they buying one? And is Club Apple providing the land? There is a line in the application stating that the land is available, but what does that mean? Available for free or available for purchase?
 - The Committee will skip Fiscal Structure and Capacity to Complete and staff will reach out to the applicant for more information.

Application Follow-ups/Updates

Caring Hands Daycare and Preschool

Discussion:

- The Committee returned to this application as staff had gotten more clarity about the construction and employer partnership for this project.
- This applicant was responsive when staff asked for more information.
- This applicant submitted a letter for a partnership with Parma Furniture and will keep one spot open for this company's employees. However, the letter is not signed by the employer partner themselves.
- The cleaning service is not receiving anything in exchange from the daycare for their services, and the daycare is not receiving anything in exchange for the child care slot held for Parma Furniture.

Discovery Christian Preschool

Discussion:

- Discovery Christian Preschool is a well-established center. The Committee reevaluated fiscal structure and capacity. This applicant had not included any information about where the grant funds were going to go.

- The grant funds will go to staffing costs and the rest of the expenses will be their match. This is what the Committee found confusing the first time this application was reviewed.
 - The resubmission includes the corrected budget information.
- What was the cost per child on this application?
 - It will be \$13,250 per child.
- The Committee felt that the applicant addressed their concerns and came back with enough info to raise their score.
- The Committee determined that the capacity to complete is reasonable.

FAQ Discussion

- Loly's Daycare has withdrawn their application.
- Lakewood Montessori has withdrawn their application as well.
- Little Wonders Preschool has not been able to submit evidence of shovel ready status yet. The applicant has been very responsive to queries from staff.
- The Legislative session is in full swing. The Child Care funding in the budget for next year is receiving some questions but no opposition yet. We are taking nothing for granted but we are hopeful that we can continue this work next year.
- March 3rd is our next in-person funding meeting at 9 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 AM