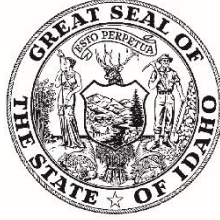


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

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 5, 2024
Time: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Location: Zoom/In-Person*
514 W Jefferson St, Ste 136
Boise, ID 83702
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9065764804?pwd=Q041YlRxdT1ZPL2p0cUo0c1puZDBGQT09>
Meeting ID: 906 576 4804
Passcode: 854181

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

Staff: Amanda Ames, Jenny Hay, Denise Hill

Guests: Janet Erickson, Oma's Daycare Cottage and Little Light Preschool, Brandi Erickson, Oma's Daycare Cottage and Little Light Preschool, Lisa Hunter, TRICA, Reda for Stephanie Olson, Little Wonders Preschool, SuZann Lund, Little People's Academy, Jon Swarthout, TRICA, Kathryn Ivers, Wood River Early Learning Collaborative, Kearis Ochs, Whole Child

Called to order at 8:50 AM.

Welcome

Sarah Griffin, Chair

Roll Call – Quorum Met

Review Agenda – no changes.

Review December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Martin Balben to approve the December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Renee Bade. Motion carried.

*** Child Care Expansion Grants**

Amanda Ames

Note: Entry wages seem low compared to average in some regions. Observation only. Add to discussion for January 19th funding meeting. Jenny Hay to provide more information on details. Benefits may be adding to discrepancy in some larger facilities.

- **Little Wonders Preschool LLC**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Currently a small provider
 - Partner: Developmental Workshop Inc for donated gym space and volunteers; applicant will offer reserved child care spaces and 10% tuition discount for partner's employees
 - Infant care; fewer providers on west side of Idaho Falls
 - Step 5 – STARS Steps to Quality
 - Hours: 7:00 AM – 6:30 PM
 - Successful business previous 5 years
 - Starting wage \$12, Assistant Director \$16. Market rate is \$15.
 - Discounted child care for staff, paid holidays, and sick leave after 1 year
 - Utilizing Quick Books; no experience with federal grants
 - 4th Quartile
- **Stoney Court Playcare LLC**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Large provider
 - 1st Quartile
 - Partner: Ellsworth Potato Services for marketing child care service to its employees with target of filling five child care slots; applicant will waive initial \$100.00 registration fee for Ellsworth employees
 - Gap study for state not specific to region, availability will assist students.
 - Not currently enrolled in STARS Steps to Quality, provided information on how they would maintain high quality care.
 - Evidence of inspection issues
 - Hours: 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM
 - Starting wage \$8.25, discounted child care for staff, free meals and snacks, access to professional and child development resources and education, flexible schedules.
 - Provider makes small annual donation of \$4K to 4H; not eligible as in kind match.
 - Supplies line item, van listed in both supplies and travel, should be entered only once.
- **Little People's Academy**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Partner: Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC; in-kind for 20 prioritized seats
 - 4th Quartile
 - Adding seats to all levels
 - STARS Steps to Quality - Step 2
 - Hours: 5:00 AM – 6:30 PM
 - Starting wage: \$11 up to \$17, market is \$15.
 - Holiday pay paid sick/vacation, discounted child care for staff after 1 year.
 - CFO, external CPA
 - 10% discount from builder
 - Established business history.
- **Whole Child LLC**
 - Met eligibility criteria.

- 1st Quartile
- Partner: Tyler Peterson LLC, 5 spaces held
- Spaces at all levels including 7 infant spaces.
- STARS Steps to Quality - Step 1, Montessori practices.
- Hours: 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM, extended hours offered at \$5 per hour (6-7 AM, 5:30-7 PM, 8 AM – 4 PM Sat.)
- Starting wage \$10
- Discounted child care for staff, free meals, Smart Dollar financial wellness benefit, flexible schedule
- CPA & Bookkeeper
- Funded last round, demonstrated ability to complete, received partial funding for in home center in 2023.
- Bank pre-approval letter references loan approval contingent on approved Idaho Health & Welfare grant rather than WDC Grant, collateral assistance program not a grant
- **Castleford School District Wolf Pup Preschool**
 - Mr. Balben recuses himself from scoring this application.
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Partner: Castleford School District – will hold preschool spots for 3 -5-year-olds for school staff.
 - 3rd Quartile
 - Currently no full-time care in area
 - Lee Pesky Learning
 - In process of beginning STARS Steps to Quality.
 - Hours: 7:40 AM – 4:00 PM during school year
 - Starting wage \$13
 - Paid personal and sick days, discounted child care for center staff.
 - Great community and School District support.
- **The Advocates**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Partnership: St Lukes Wood River plans to pursue arrangement for dedicated child care spots for St Lukes staff, in support of St Lukes recruitment and retention assistance and applicant successfully filling child care slots
 - 2nd Quartile
 - Plan for quality actions
 - Previous high-quality care
 - Hours: 7:30 AM – 6:30 PM M-F, Saturdays depending on staff availability
 - Starting wage \$20
 - 100% employer coverage for health, dental and life insurance, flexible paid leave, paid holidays
 - Financial manager, financial committees and policies, outside CPA
- **Tiny Tots Daycare and Preschool**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Project is improvement to existing facility.
 - Employer partners: Neil J Redfield Memorial Hospital and Clinic and Hess Pumice; in kind, partial tuition for employee spaces
 - Only licensed center in Malad county, 2 other centers in the area recently closed.
 - Serve infant to Pre-K

- Previously STARS Steps to Quality - Step 5, dropped due to staffing.
 - Hours 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 - Starting wage \$8.50, market rate is \$12
 - Free child care for staff.
 - Grant writer cost can be included as in-kind match.
 - Staff & employees without background checks – common compliance issue
- **Oma’s Daycare Cottage and Little Light Preschool**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - Employer partner: Idaho Central Credit Union, reserving 12 spots.
 - 4th Quartile
 - Applied last round.
 - Referenced geographic needs.
 - STARS Steps to Quality - Step 3
 - Hours: 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 - Starting wage \$9, market rate is \$15.
 - Discounted child care for staff, year-end bonus
 - Business established 2012.
 - **TRICA Inc.**
 - Met eligibility criteria.
 - 4th Quartile
 - Partnership: Lovevery, in-kind donation of professional consultation, 12 spots
 - Local need clearly described.
 - Serve ages 3 – 13 years, no infants.
 - IAEYC member, Boise City child care licensure
 - Hours: 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM daycare, 3:15 PM – 6:00 PM afterschool, 1:15 PM – 6:00 PM partial days, 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM school closure days
 - Starting wage \$17, market \$11 – request clarification on hourly vs annual in budget narrative
 - Healthcare reimbursement, PTO, paid holidays, sick leave, discounted child care for staff
 - Strong business history
 - High level of scholarships given arts-oriented institution

Committee Roundtable Discussion

ALL

- Funding meeting
 - In person at the WDC Offices January 19th 9:00 Am – 4:00 Pm
 - Protocol for partial funding
 - Staff to reach out to any request over \$500K ahead of meeting to verify if partial award would hinder project completion.

Unanimous consent motion to adjourn by Ms. Emily Allen. No objections.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.