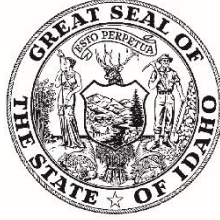


**BRAD LITTLE**  
GOVERNOR

**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, September 6, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 AM -11:00 AM  
**Location:** Zoom/In-Person\*  
514 W Jefferson St, Ste 136  
Boise, ID 83702

**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:** Jennifer Palagi, IDHW

**Called to order at 9:11 AM**

**Sarah Griffin, Chair**

**Welcome**

**Roll Call** – quorum met

**Review Agenda** – no changes

Note: The WDC Staff made a good-faith effort to cancel the August 16, 2024 meeting on Townhall. This action was not completed. Per Townhall, noting this mistake in the minutes remedies the action. Council Leadership is aware. – Denise Hill, 09/06/2024.

**Review June 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion by Mr. Balben to approve the June 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Mr. Davidson. Motion carried.**

ICCP Enrollment Freeze Overview and Update

Jennifer Palagi, IDHW

- ICCP Temporary Enrollment Pause
  - Market survey showed child care costs have skyrocketed – survey conducted every 3 years
  - Forecast for upcoming year participation would grow by approximately 1000+, creating a potential deficit

- \$61M in federal funds, generally go up each year
  - \$0 state dollars except \$1M in maintenance
  - Trustee and Benefit subsidy received, approx. \$53M goes out to programs
  - First time possibly having shortfall
- Poverty level 145% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for eligibility
- Funds go to child care provider at market rate with participant paying co-pay
- 65% of providers charge market rate or less
- During COVID lowered co-pay increased percentage, provided good choices for families
- 2 years ago, increased eligibility to 175% FPL, supporting more of the ALICE population
- Levels coming
  - A few groups will still be able to enroll
  - Possibly unfreeze in January 2025
  - Not updating provider rates in October, waiting until July 2025
  - Will set the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile of 2024 across the board
  - Income limit will be lowered to pre-pandemic rate of 130% of the Federal Poverty Level
  - Idaho STARS partner has identified funds they can reduce in DHW contract
- Need to ensure we understand how much CCEG Grant recipients depend on the DHW programs, may need to connect with them
- Discussion:
  - Feedback seems to be going to the program manager and the hotline
  - Listening and focusing on what can be done to unfreeze
  - Support around 6,400 kids annually throughout program history
  - Increase collaboration between CCEG and DHW
  - Jenny will incorporate this into conversations during the first reimbursement conversations
  - Trying to increase capacity in rural areas, ICCP will continue to be a backbone
  - FPL will change when they re-certify for those currently on the program
  - Amanda & Jenny to reach out to Jennifer about possible projects which may be impacted

**\* Project Modification Requests**

**Jenny Hay**

- Whole Child LLC
- Large center, partial funding 2024
- Requesting to move \$25K from supplies to personnel & to move \$15k from materials/center supplies to payroll tax
- Modification would be moving \$40k into personnel for motion purposes

**Motion by Mr. Balben to approve the requested changes to Whole Child LLC project addressing budget modifications and adding personnel as an approved expense category. Second by Ms. Almerico. Motion carried.**

**\* Funding Recommendations for Reverted Grant Funds**

**Amanda Ames**

- Tiny Tots in Malad not moving forward with CCEG project. Awarded \$258,620. They do not have confidence in retaining property for the 5 years per grant requirements, however, they will remain operational as they are currently

- Land of the Littles in Preston received \$179,999 CCEG award. Project not moving forward due to lack of response from grantee.
- Need to re-allocate available funds (see attached spreadsheet)
  - No small providers that would administratively be able to complete a project
  - Recommendation:
    - Lollipop Land
      - Eligible for up to \$487,544
      - Could potentially add 10 more seats
    - Kreative Kids – Twin Falls
      - Service Population is 20-25% ICCP
      - Eligible for up to \$646,000 in additional funding
      - Seats were not adjusted for partial funding
      - Completion by Dec. 2024
      - No additional seats
      - Bi-lingual
    - Nampa School District DBA Endeavor Academy
      - Can add sufficient seats to stay within max per seat award
      - At 29 currently, adding 4 would be eligible for \$104,794.37
      - Possibly 6 more seats
    - Future Leaders Academy LLC
      - Project begun
      - Could benefit from additional funding
      - Expects 150 seats
  - Highest Scoring and are executing projects
  - Child Care GAP percentages – no new numbers issued
  - 52 seats lost for the 2 de-funded projects
  - What is the committee priority? All 4 proposed projects will be sustainable
  - Kreative Kids most likely impacted by the ICCP situation, Lollipop food program requires 20% must be enrolled in ICCP may have small impact
  - Future Leaders seems to have the sustainability
  - Meaningful amounts with bulk to Future Leaders?
    - All 3 strong projects with good sustainability
    - Future Leaders would be a brand new award
    - Kreative Kids fastest need for funding
  - Suggestion: \$100K each to Lollipop & Kreative, \$238,619 to Future
  - Nampa School District project does not anticipate issues with known district budgetary issues, mostly district employees being served
  - If someone cannot take funds, Nampa would be the Committee's preferred next grantee for increased award

**Motion by Mr. Balben to recommend approval to the Executive Committee for dispersal of \$438,619 of reverted funds to Lollipop Land at \$100,000, Kreative Kids at \$100,000, and Future Leaders Academy at \$238,619 with the caveat that should Future Leaders Academy be unable to accept the amount provided, those funds would be distributed in the amount of \$50,000 to the Nampa School District, \$94,309.50 to Lollipop Land and \$94,309.50 to Kreative Kids. Second by Mr. Davidson. Motion carried.**

Committee Discussion

All

- Thank you to Jenny for detailed preparation
- 2 weeks ago, Jenny did site visits:
  - Lewis & Clark Boys & Girls Club ribbon cutting (800 kids served)
  - McCall-Donnelly School District, Ignite, Tamarack Resort, Tiny Tots in Lewiston, Tiny Town in Pinehurst, Kaniksu Health in Sandpoint, Storybook Adventure in Sagle
- Future Meetings:
  - September 20th & Oct 4th will be cancelled
  - Keep Oct 18th

**Unanimous consent motion by Mr. Davidson to adjourn. No objections.**

Adjourned 10:46 AM