



Date: January 17, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Bertha T. Johnson, Deputy City Manager
From: Robert D. Morales, Senior Grants Manager
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project - Family Childcare Homes Education Initiative

Executive Summary

On November 3, 2021, Durham’s Partnership for Children (DPfC) submitted proposal “Family Childcare Homes Education Initiative” for funding in the amount of \$89,999 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This funding will be used to support African-American, Indigenous, and People of Color family childcare businesses, improve the quality of family home childcare services while connecting providers to the existing early childhood system to enhance child outcomes and school readiness. This initiative will increase Durham’s Partnership for Children’s capacity to serve the family childcare and homes community. On May 18, 2022, City Council approved \$62,999.30 funding for this entity. Staff has reviewed the revised proposal and recommends funding.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to execute an ARPA subrecipient grant agreement with Durham’s Partnership for Children in an amount not to exceed \$62,999.30.

Background

The original proposal from Durham’s Partnership for Children (DPfC) requested \$89,999 from the ARPA funds under the core category of Negative Economic Impacts. DPfC will administer this project, designed to support family childcare homes (FCH) (where childcare is provided at an individual’s private home) through technical assistance coordinated by a Family Childcare Home Specialist (FCHS).

This project will: recruit and establish relationships with FCH providers; establish a cohort of 10-15 FCH providers that will participate in individual technical assistance sessions, group training, and peer-to-peer networking; provide professional development opportunities that will include family engagement, cultural responsiveness and competency, trauma-informed care, financial literacy, marketing, business management, and developmentally appropriate educational practices (e.g., social-emotional development, literacy, differentiation); support to expand family engagement activities and opportunities; evaluate FCH growth in knowledge and best practices; and identify mentor sites.

Issues and Analysis

According to the national collaborative Home Grown, FCH providers serve minority families from low-income backgrounds, work shift schedules, and children with special needs. Many FCH sites are led by African-American and Hispanic entrepreneurial women who may also be from low-income backgrounds. In Durham, there are 112 FCH providers. According to the National Office of Childcare, many FCH providers face isolation, limited resources, irregular work hours,

staffing needs, and lack of business expertise. Many of Durham’s FCH are not part of Durham’s formal early childhood education system. Since DPfC is engaged in the early education community and funds several community initiatives, this organization can minimize duplication of services and take a holistic approach to proposed work with FCH providers to include sessions, group training, and peer-to-peer networking. To assess impact, DPfC will evaluate enhanced technical assistance through FCH growth in knowledge and best practices and identify mentor sites to increase FCHS’ capacity to reach additional sites and families.

Target population will consist of African-American, Indigenous, and People of Color FCH providers who serve low-income children and children where English is their second language. Neighborhoods in Durham in the 27703-zip code: Grove Park, Oak Grove, East Durham, Y.E Smith, Greysons Green, the 27713-zip code: Hope Valley Farms, Woodcroft, Huntington Ridge, Parkwood, Penrith have the highest concentration of FCH providers and is where the project will concentrate recruitment efforts. DPfC’s existing relationships within these communities will serve as a recruitment and information sharing strategy. DPfC programs “Transition to KDLiteracy”, the “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library”, and “Nc Pre-K” have worked within the targeted neighborhoods and yielded positive relationships. Recruitment will be targeted to FCH providers who are not receiving technical assistance from other community partners with care to prioritize family care sites that are still “unconnected” to Durham’s formal early education systems.

Durham resident parents and programs were involved in informal spaces to obtain input on needs and challenges impacting families and childcare service delivery models. Most recently, the Smart Start network launched the Wonderschool program to increase the supply and quality of childcare across the United States. DPfC is the project lead in Durham County and is working closely to implement the project in partnership with a limited number of FCH providers. The FCHS will build off the Wonderschool project’s success (e.g., relationship building, capacity, and the current state of FCH in Durham and across North Carolina).

Alternatives

The City Council can choose not to accept the staff recommendation.

Financial Impact

\$62,999.30 is available for this purpose from the funding source of the ARPA federal funds. The City of Durham received \$51,881,733 in two distributions; the first distribution was received on June 1, 2021, in the amount of \$25,940,866.50; the remaining was received May 2022. The City will have until December 2024 to obligate the funds. Recipients have until December 2026 to spend the funds.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agenda item, a review by the Finance Department was not required.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information would not be applicable.

Attachments

Durham’s Partnership for Children Subrecipient Grant Agreement