

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance: Leslie Anderson, Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Philip Belcher, Christy Cheek, Jane Hatley, Rich Johnston, Chavaun Letman, Susan Mims, Mistie Reising-Cogbill, Robert Pressley, Glenda Weinert, Al Whitesides, Kidada Wynn

County Support Staff in Attendance: Rasheeda McDaniels, Trish Wallin, Christina McEntee, Rachael Nygaard, Angelyn Johnson, Max Taintor

Discussion

- Update on funding available for allocation: In addition to the previously reported recurring allocations from the Early Childhood Fund, \$851,411 County general funds are already going to Asheville City Schools Preschool for operation budget. Amount available for allocation today is \$1,947,894. Total Early Childhood Fund is \$3,600,000.
- Goal is to have the proposal ready by 4:00 pm for how the funds will be allocated.
- Discussion of grant scoring and funding recommendations. Considerations included:
 - Scoring of applications using rubric and scale vs. other projects that generate a lot of interest and have strong attributes but didn't score the highest.
 - Different formats of project budgets, varying in detail and how grant funding is represented in relation to project and organizational expenses.
 - Desire to fund project dispersed across all five different goals, some projects impact more than one. Need to balance slot creation with workforce development and not at the expense of the other goals. Recommendation to rename "Collective Impact" goal to "Systems Change" to more accurately reflect the definition.
 - Number of slots created a priority consideration, along with timeline for project implementation.
 - Diversity, equity, inclusion and link to achievement gap
 - Consideration for smaller, more grassroots programs that don't have a professional grant writer or projects with less readiness for funding
 - Opportunity for collaboration between some projects as well as
- Developed multiple potential scenarios for funding.
- Leslie Anderson made a motion to set aside \$100,000 for special incubator fund to support technical assistance. Christy Cheek seconded. Two opposed. Motion carried.
- Due to time constraints, the meeting was continued until June 6th at 4:00 pm, in the ground floor conference room at 200 College St.

Next Steps

- Staff will send out a spreadsheet with the scenarios discussed and a template for committee members to work on their own scenarios before Thursday's meeting.
- Committee to hold an evaluation/debrief discussion on the funding process at a future meeting

Public Comment

- Corrie Price – Shared that Evolve Early Learning can have 48 kids ready to go in August and encouraged the committee to think about alternative centers to serve in a different capacity.

- Amy Barry – Thanked the committee and shared that some community providers have done all the right things, such as advantage of resources and getting technical assistance and can add slots quickly. Also shared that Buncombe Partnership for Children’s existing funding which partially supports workforce development and coaching and technical training for providers.
- Jessica Bryant – Addressed the Irene Wortham Center’s funding application and shared that partial funding is an option. The proposal includes behavioral therapists and funding to support teachers with students dealing with trauma. Additionally clarified that the center 3 Pre-K slots, has 90 children currently, and funding would allow them to be fully staffed and serve full licensed capacity of 100.
- Dede Styles – Shared that she used to have a daycare center and has a master’s degree in early childhood education and spoke on the topic of closing the achievement gap in addition to adding more slots to serve more children.

Next meeting

June 6, 2019

4:00 – 5:00 pm

200 College Street

Ground Floor Conference Room