

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

#### Agenda Item Name: American Rescue Plan – For Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Grant Application Review and Recommendations

<b>Department</b>	Administration	<b>Presented By:</b>	Administrator
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	07 December 2021	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Vote
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	Structure C
<b>Date submitted:</b>	30 November 2022	<b>Referred by:</b>	
<b>Action needed by no later than (date)</b>	N/A	<b>Resolution</b>	<u>N/A</u> , prepared, reviewed

#### Recommendation and/or action language:

(Recommended) Motion to ... recommend grant awards to providers as illustrated through Option # 2 and to recommend resolution to the Richland County Board to award grants to these identified providers, in the amounts specified, and to task administration with development of a grant award agreement, releasing the funds, obtaining expenditure reports and filing reports with the U.S. Treasury.

(Other Options) Motion to ... recommend grant awards to providers as illustrated through option # ( \_ ) and to recommend resolution to the Richland County Board to award grants to these identified providers, in the amounts specified, and to task administration with releasing the funds obtaining expenditures for future federal reporting.

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#### **Background:** *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

In the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, guidance was given to administration to further assess the grant applicants with consideration for: services the applicants offer, impacts of a reduced or denied grant apportionment, number of children they are able to provide services to.

In response to this request, the Assistant to the Administrator solicited a questionnaire to the applicants seeking the additional information. These questionnaires were reviewed by the Administrator, Assistant and staff of Health and Human Services familiar with child care and education regulations and operations. The result of this review is the development of a third course of action for the committee to consider.

The current options are based on the following reasoning:

Option #1: Utilitarianism Approach – Proportionate reduction in grant funds to all applicants. With this option, applicant #5 (as indicated on the matrix) states that the project would not move forward.

Option #2: Fastest impacts in expanding services — Funds all that are currently open or close to opening at 100% if their request to increase child care availability. Reduces the two largest requests evenly and does not fund the applicant requesting on behalf of increasing operational safety.

Option #3: Rawls Approach — Distributes full apportionment to two of the smaller providers with less access to additional funding sources, reduces the apportionment to the provider with safety requests by cutting the driveway improvement project, and distributes the remainder of apportioned funds to the larger operations proportionately meeting roughly one-half there requested amounts.

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

In reviewing the intentions and eligibility of the grant:

#### RICHLAND COUNTY INTENSIONS

In response to this Treasury Guidance and the needs of the community, Richland County intends to distribute grants to promote:

1. New, expanded, or enhanced early learning services, including pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or partnerships between pre-kindergarten programs and local education authorities, or administration of those services;
2. New or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children;

Richland County Early Childhood Education and Child Care (ARPA) Grants are designed to provide additional, flexible resources to Early Childhood Education Centers and Child Care providers to assist with their economic recovery from added safety, standup or expansion, with grant awards based on the proof of need for sustained or expanded services available to support the community through impacts of the continued COVID-19 pandemic.

#### GRANT ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a grant of up to \$150,000 an early childhood education center, or child care provider, must:

- Be physically located in Richland County.
- Be a State of Wisconsin regulated Early Childhood Education and Child Care Provider (demonstrate that funds will facilitate bringing facility or operation into regulatory compliance)
- Be able to demonstrate with documentation and/or a developed business plan how costs incurred are related to enhancing safety and mitigation of the spread of contagion and/or how costs incurred will expanded services to the underserved populations of Richland County.

#### APPLICANTS:

In response to our advertising and solicitation of the available grant funding, Richland County received applications from five local area providers expressing their plans to utilize the funds in delivering expanded or safer childcare services. A decision matrix is attached below capturing the basic elements in which the grant application referenced. Applications will be presented at the meeting. A walkthrough of each applicants' goals, needs and credentials will be presented by the Assistant to the Administrator.

#### Attachments and References:

RC Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers Grant Application	(Below) Evaluation Matrix
Applications will be available at the meeting.	

**Richland County Committee**

**Agenda Item Cover**

**Financial Review:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source	American Rescue Plan Act (\$335,099.90)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

*(summary of current and future impacts)*

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**Approval:**

**Review:**

*Clinton Langreck*

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Department Head

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Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

				<u>Option #1</u>	<u>Option #2</u>	<u>Option #3</u>
%	of Reduction on Option #1	Total Grant		Even distribution based on needs	Fastest impact in expanding services	Committee discussion and priorities
	0.702288	\$335,099.90				
#	<u>Regulated/ Certified</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Currently Open</u>	<u>Utilization of Funds</u>		
#1	No Neither	\$150,000.00	No	Even reduction by percentages to spread funds across all applicants	Fund all that are currently open or close to opening funded 100% if their proposal will increase child care availability and the 2 largest request reducing them evenly	Allocation following committee review.
#1	No Neither	\$150,000.00	No	Facility will be opening the Fall 2022. Anticipated capacity is 50 children rolled out over a course of 3 years. Funds will assist in purchase of building and start up costs. Will also use utilize the facility as a meal site. Will need to be State Licensed to accommodate for 3+ children and will require a 1:8 ratio of care takers to children.	\$105,343.20	\$116,220.00
#2	Yes Licensed	\$75,000.00	Yes	Funds will be used to increase staff which will allow for the increase of hours 42.5 child hours per week. Increasing revenue will allow for expanded hours outside of the 8 hrs./day and 5 days per week long term.	\$52,671.60	\$75,000.00
#3	No Neither	\$130,000.00	No	Funds will used to construct a building to house the child care business. Initial steps would be to hire a Coordinator who will acquire the certification to run the program which will be outside of this request.	\$91,297.44	\$100,724.00
#4	Yes Licensed	\$79,000.00	Yes	Licensed Daycare provider. Money will be used to reconfigure the front entrance for safety purposes, Open blind spots to children during meal and snack prep and constructing a screen porch to enable children of all ages exposure to outside activities.	\$55,480.75	\$0.00
#5	No Currently working on Certification and License	\$43,154.16	No	Funds will be used to do finish work to the designated space, purchase a food prep items and modification to have a separate entrance. Daycare will be operated in their own home with isn't own designated space. Will accommodate up to 8 children ages 8-12. Will be open 5 days/week, 10.5 hrs./day.	\$30,306.65	\$43,154.16