AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Ratification of CM Approval to Submit Grant App; C

Action Requested: Other County Manager Approval to Submit Grant

Parties to the Agreement: City of Gunnison

Term Begins: January 1, 2019 **Term Ends:** 12/31/2019 **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Health and Human Services is seeking approval to submit a City of Gunnison grant for the Multicultural Resource Services and Early Childhood Council. The application will be for $20,000.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Margaret Wacker **Submitter's Email Address:** mwacker@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
If approved, will need to be added to the budget. No concerns. ln

Reviewed by: Discharge Date: 10/31/2019

County Attorney Review: (●) Required ( ) Not Required

Comments:
ok db 10/30/19

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: 10/31/2019 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ( ) No (●)

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 10/31/2019

(●) Consent Agenda ( ) Regular Agenda ( ) Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 11/5/2019

Revised April 2015

Organization Name*

Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council and the Multicultural Resource Office housed under Gunnison County Department of Health and Human Services

Mailing Address

220 N. Pine Street, Gunnison, CO 81230

Provide a brief description of the program or service:

The Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council (GHECC) and the Multicultural Resource Office (MRO) are both housed under Gunnison County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Both the GHECC and the MRO are focused on creating solutions to issues related to our vulnerable populations, including youth, low income and minority populations.

The GHECC was brought to our community in July of 2007 by Gunnison County's Department of Health and Human Services Department (DHHS). It was established in order to improve local early childhood services and educational opportunities for children by increasing and sustaining the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of services. The GHECC's overall goal is for all children to be successful at school, at work, and in the community.

The Multicultural Resource Office (MRO)is focused on increasing access to healthcare and other community resources through multilingual navigation services. As a part of DHHS, Interpretation and Translation services are provided to clients on an as needed basis.

In February of 2018, as part of the Colorado Health Foundation and the City of Gunnison Public Service Grant Program requirements, the MRO and GHECC hosted a Community Café with over fifty Spanish-speaking adults who provided input on the following topics: parenting classes & childcare; healthy eating & active living; health & housing; communication; and mental health. The results of the Café provided much information on the barriers that many of the Latinx families in our community are facing in regards to accessing quality child care. Some families reported that they don't always trust the person they leave our kids with. All respondents agreed that childcare is too expensive and that there are not enough slots are available to serve the need in the community.

This is not new information as we have heard similar comments from many of our community members over the last 2 years through various formats, including a recent parent survey that was distributed throughout the community from April-June 2019. The survey had 104 respondents, all of which were from the area and had young children or were expecting a child. The results of the survey indicated a significant lack of infant/toddler slots, parents' inability to afford childcare, and trouble with turnover in the EC workforce.

As 8 home providers have closed their doors over the last 6 years, we have lost 51 childcare slots in our area. This loss of slots has stretched current child care resources very thin and made it difficult for families to find care for their child. Inability to find child care directly affects parents' ability to work and provide for their family, while local employers begin to struggle more often to recruit and retain employees.

The GHECC and MRO are requesting funding to help support our efforts to increase access to affordable quality care and education, raise awareness around the issues facing early childhood care and education programs in our valley, and improve collaboration among organizations that have the potential to remedy this situation and develop solutions that can meet the needs of our community. Our overarching goal in these efforts is to reduce the amount of toxic stress that parents and children might be experiencing due to a lack of or inability to access resources available in our community.

Funding would be put towards GHECC and MRO staff time working on the following tasks:

- Efforts towards early childhood workforce recruitment and retention, beginning with raising awareness around the need for greater support for the early childhood workforce in our community.
    - Creating stronger partnerships with Western Colorado University and the Gunnison Watershed RE1J School District to offer and encourage enrollment in required Early Childhood Education courses at a local level.
- Collaborate with Communities that Care in raising awareness around the effects of toxic stress and strengthening protective factors in the community.
- Advertise through social media and newspaper ads on the importance of quality early childhood care and education and supporting a strong early childhood workforce.
- Organize Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) trainings and pre-licensing trainings for individuals currently providing care and those interested in becoming licensed child care providers in our area (including Spanish-speaking providers).
- Assist with the planning of the Nurturing the Young Child Conference which provides continuing education credits to help the EC workforce obtain the required 15 hours of continuing education each year.
- Plan and host the Community Baby Shower in April of 2020 where various resources for potential childcare providers will be made available as well as informational sessions on a variety of topics related to young children.
- Collaborate with Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Program (GCSAPP) to run a series of people's suppers to assist in creating greater connections with families throughout the community.

- Translation of all advertisements and messaging on events and programs available in the City of Gunnison.

Funding Impact*

Please describe the resulting impact to your program or service in the event funding is not approved or your application is only funded in part.

Should the funding for this service not be approved, the GHECC and MRO would continue to work on the tasks outlined in the program description. However with a limited amount of staff hours dedicated specifically to these efforts the development of promising outcomes could advance slowly. The GHECC believes that it is critical to work on this initiative at an increased rate as we are seeing a greater number of families struggling to find quality, trusted care for their young children. The is very concerning for our community members, increasing the amounts of toxic stress experienced by a large number of families in the community and having a lasting effect on the overall function of our community and the healthy development of children.

· Population Served*

How many participants are directly impacted by or participate in your program or service? Please enter a NUMBER - don't just indicate a geographic area to which you provide services.

The entire community

Why do you think the program or service should be funded by the taxpayers of the City of Gunnison?

Quality early childhood care and education plays a crucial role in the health and well-being of children, families, and the community. Gunnison thrives when our kids thrive because they are our future workforce, leaders, and community members. We all have a role to play in preparing Gunnison's kids for the future, even those of us in the community who may not be directly involved in raising kids. Not only do the kids benefit from quality early care and education, but parents, employers, and the community as a whole benefits when parents can leave their children with a trusted, reliable caregiver. Without quality early childhood care and education many employers in the valley would struggle to find and retain employees and many of the families would have greater difficulty raising a family in our valley. Increasing access to quality early childhood care and education is a protective factor that buffers against the toxic stress that many families in our community experience on a daily basis as they struggle to live in an area with such a high cost of living while earning less than a livable wage.

Special Marijuana Tax Revenue Eligibility*

Does this program or service impact regulation of the marijuana industry or provide social, recreational, and educational programs within the community such as substance abuse prevention, education and counseling?

Yes

Please list three measurable objectives and include how attainment of the goals/objectives will be measured.

Objective #1*

Increase community awareness around the issues facing early childhood care and education in our area.

- At least 4 early childhood task force meetings led by GHECC and MRO staff to identify key areas of concern in our current early childhood landscape. Work towards the development of an action plan to address the areas of concern.
    - We plan to include a variety of key leaders in our community as part of the taskforce to identify potential solutions to strengthen the early childhood support available in our community.
    - Spanish interpretation services will be provided at meetings if needed.
- Weekly messaging around the importance of quality early childhood care and education through social media campaigns, newspaper ads, and various events that occur throughout the year.
    - Messaging will be translated into Spanish.

Objective #1 Measurement*

A sign-in sheet will be passed around at each early childhood task force meeting in order to record the number of individuals in attendance. We will also include an evaluation form at the end of each meeting for those in attendance to fill out with any suggestions as we move forward.

We will track the number of social media posts, newspaper ads, and outreach at events that will occur throughout the year as well as an estimated number of individuals reached through each outlet.

Objective #2*

Increase access to quality early childhood care and education.

- The GHECC and MRO staff, in collaboration with the Gunnison County Libraries, will be responsible for organizing Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) (non-licensed caregivers) trainings and pre-licensing. These trainings will be for individuals currently providing care in their homes and those interested in becoming licensed child care

providers in our area. These trainings will include many of the pre-licensing courses necessary for an individual to become a licensed childcare provider, such as First Aid, CPR, Standard Precautions, and Medication Administration. Outreach to Spanish speaking providers will be a priority area. Spanish interpretation provided at each training or trainings offered in Spanish.

- The GHECC and MRO staff will plan the 2020 Nurturing the Young Child Conference, which provides 6 hours of continuing education as well as the opportunity for attendees to earn a CEU through Western Colorado University. Spanish interpretation will be provided at the conference or some sessions will be offered in Spanish.
- The GHECC staff will work closely with Western Colorado University and the Pathways program offered through the Gunnison Watershed School District to develop a plan to begin offering more Early Childhood Education courses at a local level in order to better support the EC workforce.

Objective #2 Measurement*

- At least 6 FFN and/or pre-licensing trainings will be offered throughout the year.
- The Nurturing the Young Child Conference will be offered in November 2020, with Spanish interpretation services offered at the conference.
- The GHECC staff will continue to meet with Western Colorado University and the Pathways Program. At least one Early Childhood Education course will be offered at the Summer Teacher Institute on the Western Colorado University campus in June of 2020.

Objective #3*

Increase community member's feelings of connectedness and belonging through discussions surrounding the state of early childhood care and education in our area.

- GHECC and MRO staff will work closely with GCSAPP to host a series of People's Suppers. These suppers will be held in an effort to better engage community members by going beneath the surface and connecting meaningfully with one another. There will be an effort to then engage community members that have attended the People's Suppers in further conversations around topics such as early childhood care and education, youth programming and services, and family resources.

Objective #3 Measurement*

- At least 3 People's Suppers will be held throughout the year with greater involvement from a handful of interested community members in the GHECC, the MRO, and GCSAPP.

- Please upload the following information:

1. Most recent year's actual income and expenses - include reasonable detail for the agency as a whole (if you are requesting funding for a specific event or project, please provide the event or project actuals as well)

2. Most recent budget - include reasonable detail for the agency as a whole (if you are requesting funding for a specific event or project, please provide the event or project budget as well)

3. Names and addresses of all board members including designation of officers

4. (optional) Please feel free to include any other documents that you think will support your application

- File Upload*

Certification

- Certification*

I hereby attest that the information provided in this application is accurate as of the date of submission.