AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: BOCC Letter of Support; Seasons Schoolhouse

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

BOCC Letter of Support for Seasons Schoolhouse

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Liz Mense **Submitter's Email Address:** EMense@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mhoyt Discharge Date: 8/14/2020 Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/14/2020

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5

Agenda Date: 8/18/2020

Revised April 2015

Dear Trish Thibodo:

We write this letter in support of Seasons Schoolhouse and their pursuit of the Enterprise Zone Designation. Seasons Schoolhouse operates in Gunnison, Colorado, where the need for quality childcare and preschool options far surpasses the availability of slots in licensed centers. They are essential to the early childhood care and preschool network in rural Gunnison County.

Obtaining the EZ designation will equip Seasons to raise funds for a coordinated expansion with Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) in a location owned by the county and utilized in support of the community health system. This expansion entails a renovation of an unused GVH building adjacent to the Gunnison Senior Care Center, which will provide opportunities for intergenerational learning experiences for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. Expanding Seasons Schoolhouse will benefit the broader early childhood community by providing at least 34 additional licensed slots, creating at least eight new jobs in the early childcare field, and supporting the community and economy at large in its partnership with GVH and the essential workers who are employed there. The proposed addition of licensed slots is especially urgent as several licensed in-home childcare providers in the county have shared with the Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council their intent to retire in the next few years.

In summary, we are confident that the proposed expansion for Seasons Schoolhouse meets the criteria for the Enterprise Zone Designation, and that the community will benefit from the donations and contributions they will receive once this designation is approved.

Respectfully,

_____	_____	_____
Jonathan Houck	Roland Mason	Elizabeth Smith
Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson	Commissioner