

ELI Capacity Grant Committee Meeting

February 27, 2019, 12pm

Vermont Energy Invest Corporation, 128 Lakeside Ave, Burlington

Call to Order: 12:10pm

Attendees:

- Phelan Fretz, Executive Director, ECHO Leahy Center
- Kristin Fontaine, Pediatrics Outreach Coordinator, University of Vermont Medical Center
- Sarah Muyskens, CHT and ECHO Board Member
- Brian Pine, City Councilor Ward 3
- Becca Schrader, Vermont Community Loan Board
- Brian Lowe, Interim Chief Innovation Officer, City of Burlington
- Rebecca Reese, CEDO, City of Burlington (not Committee member)
- Didi Harris Let's Grow Kids, (not Committee member)
- Tanya LaChapelle, Let's Grow Kids, (not Committee member)

Introductions

Review of Agenda

Public Comment: no public present

Level-Setting Discussion:

- Second round of Capacity Grant applications and awards
- Committee is aware with the process: Committee recommendations will go to Mayor and City Council for approval
- \$210,000 to be awarded
- 3 applications – Burlington Children's Space, Pine Forest, and Champlain Valley Head Start

Discussion of Applications

- Overview of summaries provided by Let's Grow Kids
 - Committee Members scored each application

Burlington Children's Space

- 2nd phase of capacity building – ask of \$75,000
- 1st ask in 2018 for \$150k – committee decided to split last year into two years after the center worked on business plan and sustainability
- BCS has met or exceeded every request the committee made of them last year and the efforts BCS is making set it up not only for continued operation but to consider possible expansion in future years...great positive progress led by center staff / director despite many challenges
- Part of sustainability is to purchase building
 - Delays around CHT fixing roof before purchase and ensuring the ground contamination has been dealt with and documented correctly
 - Looking to use rent from other areas of the building as revenue, possibly condo-ize parts too

- Center does participate in CACFP (“no” answer was on a mistake on the application)
- Center’s infant/toddler spots have dropped from 29 to 22 spots because they have less part time children & more full-time and they are down 3 kids bc of staffing loss
- CCFAP enrollment has increased
- Received some United Way funding this year
- Proposal to fund the center with strong language encouraging enrollment of ELI scholarship children

Recommendation: Fully funding, \$75,000

Pine Forest

- 2nd planning grant for expansion and capital campaign - \$95,422.50
 - Project planning, development and fundraising donor base, phase 1 ER review, surveying, architectural design, staff/consultant time
- Funded 1st capacity grant in 2018 for \$30k for sustainability of the program and upgrades to technology for both administration and for classroom teaching
 - Center has not spent all of first grant funding from first round – purchasing computers this week and signed contracts for upgrades
- 1st grant came with a requirement for 20% CCFAP enrollment – center has fluctuated with teacher hiring needs
- Request is for funding planning of expansion- the center is ready and has a lot of will to make it happen but not a clear path forward
- LGK still committed to working with center and offering TA guidance throughout process

Recommendation: Do not fund request of \$95,422,50

Champlain Valley Head Start

- 1st grant request of \$90,849 to open a new center for both Early Head Start and preschool Head Start
- Funds will outfit and equip building in Old North End off of Riverside Ave for the center
- Creation of 15 preschool spots and 8 infant/toddler spots
- This is a revised grant request from \$260k to \$90k – removing salary/benefit costs to focus on fit-up costs
- Current request would put preschool online for Sept 2019 but infant/toddler would come online in 2020, due to federal Head State grant cycles
- Suggestion of connecting with BHA and Burlington Supportive Housing Initiative about what those organizations can do to help project along
- Waiting to hear about an additional Duration Grant from the federal government – should hear by end of February
- Proposal to offer some additional funding to get 4 or 8 infant/toddler slots online for Sept 2019
- Another suggestion to leverage the additional funding as a matching grant to garner more funds
- Possible to carry the additional revenue forward to FY 2020 for future use

Recommendation: Fully fund request, \$90,849, and possibly leverage additional amount to bring infant/toddler slots on in September 2019

Motion to vote on grant recommendations as listed: Sarah Muyskens
Seconded: Brian Pine

Motion to adjourn: approved
End Time: 1:30pm