



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

Title of Item: Child Care Facilities Grant awards

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Mark Jeffers	Department: Administration	
Presenter (Name and Title): Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator		Estimated Time Needed: 10 minutes
Summary of Issue: The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received 10 grant funding requests for the 2022 Child Care Facilities Grant Program. Total funding request= \$53,500. Total funding available= \$50,000. The ACEDC recommends awarding 6 grants, totaling \$25,000. The remaining \$25,000 in funding will be reallocated to a child care start up grant opportunity. Grant applicant summary and grant award summary are attached, along with the 2022 Child Care Facilities Grant guidelines.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: ACEDC requests approval of recommended grant awards.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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 Phone: 218-927-7305
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TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
 FROM: Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator
 DATE: June 14, 2022
 SUBJECT: Aitkin County Child Care Facilities Grants

Aitkin County received 10 grant requests for the Aitkin County Child Care Facilities Grant fund. We received \$53,500 in requests with \$50,000 available. The Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the following grant awards:

Child Care Facility Name	Contact Name	child care slots increased	\$ requested	\$ Awarded
Little Pine Academy	Kendra Mickelson	20	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Cheryl's Kids and Company	Cheryl Kehn	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Red Robin Childcare	Jackie Scollard	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Sarah's Tiny Tots Daycare	Sarah Hacker	2	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Beth's Home Daycare	Elizabeth Johnson	0 (-12)	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
Sharon's Silly Face Daycare	Sharon Rutz	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
				\$ 25,000
				25000.00

2022 Child Care Grant

	Child Care Facility Name	Contact Name	City	child care slots increased	\$ requested	\$ Awarded	Comments
1	Little Farmers Daycare	Candice Roberts	Aitkin	0	\$ 3,500	\$ -	New toys, and equipment, new signage to advertise/fill spots when needed (see narrative)
2	Jaqueline Morano	Jaqueline Morano	Aitkin	0	\$ 5,000	\$ -	equipment for outdoor play area
3	Sarah's Shining Stars Day Care	Sarah Meyer	McGregor	0	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Safety fence and outdoor barriers
4	Little Pine Academy	Kendra Mickelson	McGregor	20	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Plans to transition from at Home to Day Care Facility- increasing by 20+ slots
5	Day Care Palace	Mary Handt	Aitkin	0	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Outdoor fence replacement,cement slab and playground equipment
6	Cheryl's Kids and Company	Cheryl Kehn	Aitkin	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Replace furnace and hot water heater
7	Red Robin Childcare	Jackie Scollard	McGregor	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Indoor/Outdoor play area improvement
8	Sarah's Tiny Tots Daycare	Sarah Hacker	Aitkin	2	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	add part-time staff helpers allowing day care to be at full capacity
9	Beth's Home Daycare	Elizabeth Johnson	Aitkin	0 (-12)	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	Heating and cooling system- Applicant indicates that without the new unit, the day care may close
10	Sharon's Silly Face Daycare	Sharon Rutz	Malmo	0	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	equipment for outdoor play area
		Increasing Child Care Slots					
					\$ 53,500	\$ 25,000	
						25000.00	remaining



2022 Aitkin County Child Care Facilities Grant Requirements

Aitkin County is awarding grants to new and existing child care providers. The grant are intended to increase the amount of child care slots and/or child care jobs within the business awarded.

Grants must be used by eligible businesses in one of three (3) categories. Examples of eligible expenses include:

1. Category I: Grant awarded for existing Child Care facilities to assist them with physical equipment and infrastructure improvements.
2. Category II: Grant awarded for the purpose of aiding in training for assistant Child Care workers for their facilities.
3. Category III: Grant awarded for aid in opening new facilities and/or licensing fees for new or start-up child care facilities.

The following State criteria must be met for eligibility:

- The Child Care business must have a physical establishment in Aitkin County
- The Child Care business must have a current active license or in the process of completing the license.
- No current tax liens with the Secretary of State.
- A Business must be current on their property taxes as of March 31, 2021 or any other obligations to Aitkin County.

A Business must submit a full application with signatures and complete the attached W-9 Form. Submittal of a completed application does not guarantee funding.

A Business owner agrees that by signing and submitting the 2022 Aitkin County Child Care Facilities Grant they will be subject to a random audit by Aitkin County for accuracy in information requested. They also agree to provide additional documentation that may be requested by Aitkin County or their representative to determine eligibility and award amount or to complete an audit of funds awarded. If it is determined that false or misleading information is provided on the 2022 Aitkin County Child Care Facilities Grant, the Business will be required to repay Aitkin County the entire grant amount.

Maximum Grant amount is tentatively \$10,000 for Child Care Center and \$5,000 for Home Based Child Care, based upon need and funds available.

Applications will be made available on February 14, 2022. Applications will be reviewed on April 27, 2022. Applications received after 4:30 p.m. April 26, 2022 may be considered if funds remain after first review. Grants will continue to be awarded until all funds are expended. Final approval will be subject to approval by the Aitkin County Board.



Grant applications will be available on the Aitkin County website and by request and may be submitted by email to Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator, mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us or by mail to Aitkin County Government Center, ATTN: Mark Jeffers, 307 2nd Street NW #314, Aitkin, MN 56431 or delivered to the Aitkin County Government Center Administration Office.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact Mark Jeffers at 218-513-6188 or mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us.

Aitkin County reserves the right to reject or modify any application or portions thereof if it feels the application does not meet the guidelines or application process requirements. Businesses may be prioritized based on need.