



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6C
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Title of Item: Childcare Acceleration Grant: Award funding

<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: <p>The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received and reviewed grant funding requests for the Childcare Acceleration Grant Program. Grant applications for all grants applications reviewed and grant award summary are included.</p> <p>The Committee recommends and requests approval to award the following grant at this time:</p> <p>Tamarack Learning Center, Niki Elvidge \$60,000.</p> <p>Aitkin County has been awarded a grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, have approved this grant funding to be used to directly impact the Community of Aitkin County by establishing the Aitkin County Childcare Acceleration Grant.</p> <p>The purpose of this grant fund is to help support community members who aspire start their career in childcare and become childcare providers in Aitkin County in an effort to drive economic growth. The main purpose of this grant is to increase childcare slot availability and consideration will be given to new Childcare providers increasing the slot availability. The funding will help support fees associated with new licensing and training needed to open a childcare center or at home facility, general remodeling costs to meet licensing standards and/or funding support to add additional employees to new and existing childcare businesses.</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Economic Development requests approval of a motion to award the recommended grant.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please Explain: This funding is budgeted through an acquired DEED grant to the County.		

2023 Childcare Acceleration Grant Program

	Applicant Name	Project Name	Funding Category	City	\$ requested	\$ Awarded
7	Ashley Warner	Ashley's Little Adventurers	Remodel to meet licensing standards	Aitkin	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800
8	Nicole F Elvidge	Tamarack Learning Center	New child care program, remodel to meet licensing standards	Tamarack	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 60,000
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
					\$ 104,800.00	\$ 64,800

\$35,200



Application for Aitkin County CHILDCARE ACCELERATION Grant Program 2023

1. Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to:
mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us, subject line: CHILDCARE ACCELERATION GRANT 2023
Or by mail to:
Mark Jeffers
Aitkin County Government Center,
307 2nd Street NW, Room 316,
Aitkin, MN 56431.
2. Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee.
3. Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Business Name: Tamarack Learning Center Child Care

Address: 110 Tingdale St. N.
Tamarack, MN 55787

Person in Charge of Project: Nicole F. Elvidge

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):

47275 188th Ave. McGregor, MN 55760

Contact Person's Phone #: 763-232-3836

Contact Person's Email: niki1968@msn.com

Description of your childcare business:

New Child Care Program

How many children are enrolled?

TBD

How many childcare slots will you increase if awarded?

Approx. 49 slots (More depending on
Sprinkler System requirements)



FUNDING:

Category for funding (circle or highlight):

- Licensing & training
- Remodel to meet licensing standards
- Supplies to meet licensing standards

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$ 100,000.⁰⁰

Amount of the business' match

\$ TBD (as required)

Total projected budget

\$ 200,000.⁰⁰ - 225,000.⁰⁰

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

Open a new child Care Center in Aitkin County.
Remodel, Repair and Restore an existing Tamarack City building (The old school house)
see attached Estimates of Project...

1) Fire/Building inspection + requirements.

- Level Entry to Main Floor grade Exits x 2
- Fire Safe Doors + ER/Panic Push Bars x 2
- FRP Wall Board + Trim in Kitchen Area's etc.
- Linoleum/Ceramic Flooring Kitchen + Bathrooms
- Smoke + CO₂ detectors + Fire Extinguishers x 5
- Additional Emergency Exit/Door + Ramp

2) Building Structural Safety + Foundation

- Block work/Concrete Repair
- Chimney Removal/Stabilization
- Replace Roof + secure trusses etc.
- Add Egress Window as ER Exit (Lower level)
- Replace Sub-pumps x 2
- Fire Code Blown insulation + Ceiling Secur
- Mold Proof + Clean up
- Weight bearing supports + additional doors for ER exits throughout building x 3

- 3) Plumbing repairs, improvements ...
- Install 3 more toilets (children size)
 - 2 more SINKS (children height)
 - Mop sink installed for cleaning, etc.
 - Add Outdoor spicket for use on Playground
Lawn care + maintenance etc.
 - plumbing for + washer/dryer
 - plumb kitchen for additional Sinks/dishwasher.

- 4) Kitchen Requirements For Safe Storing,
Preparing + serving food to children.
- Refrigerator, freezer + dishwasher
 - Convection Oven, Microwave, Steamer Kettle,
Air Fryer + cooking pots, pans etc.
 - stainless steel shelving, prep counters etc.
 - Sinks; Handwashing, Food prep + washing.
 - New FRP Rated Wall board, Ceiling + Flooring

ALL
"NSF"
Approved

- 5) Outdoor Playground Fenced in.
- Enclosed area with chainlink fencing
gates x 3 entry + drive thru gate.
 - Covered area for shade (sheltered
sandbox + sitting area.)
 - Large Muscle Climber + equipment etc.
 - Play Toys, trikes, balls, jump ropes etc.
 - Safe zone surfacing; recycled rubber/
woodchips + grass maintenance.

- 6) Electrical up to Code + Requirements
For safely caring for children.
- Central Air Conditioning + Heating Furnace.
 - Alarm + Camera System; Buzzer entry
 - Wiring all up to Code + Lighting
appropriate for play + ER Evacuation
 - Ceiling Fans repaired for Fresh Air

- 7) Classroom Equipment + Environment Display
- Cubbies (1 each per child)
 - Shelving + room dividers / Areas
 - Tables, chairs, water/science Tables, Easels
 - Bulletin/chalk boards, Paper Mount + Cabinet
 - Rugs/carpeting as needed for Requirements

- 8) Classroom Toys + Supplies
- 30 sets of manipulative toys
 - puzzles, Fine Motor items + storage shelves + cabinets, Arts + craft items
 - Markers, Crayons, paint, glue, scissors etc.
 - Cots, cribs, sheets, highchairs + infant bouncers, swings + seats etc.
 - Music sources + Musical instruments
 - Dramatic Play equip + dress up clothing etc., Area display + Accessories
 - Supplies + Room Decor, such as;
Single service towels, Kleenex, changing paper, hand soap etc... wall posters
Construction paper, drawing paper
+ Books, Books + More Books 😊

- 9) Staff Hiring, Training + Payroll expenses.
- Hire Staff + Qualified Teachers
 - Train, Orientation and Staff Development
 - Wages + Benefits, with Start-up expenses etc.

- 10) Misc. Technology such as Parent Key Fobs, iPads for login + programs for enrollment, tuition entry + payroll/Quickbooks program, computer/payroll checks, DADAR etc...



(Quotes underway)
Bids + Price Lists / Pic's
Attached.

PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire project.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Structure - Secure/safe			
Electrical - Code (Fire safety)			
Plumbing Required			
Kitchen Necessities			
Classroom Equipment			
Playground - Complete			
Furnace/Heating/Air			
Classroom TOYS + Supplies			
Staff Hiring, Training + pay			
TOTALS			

Will your organization accept a grant if it is partially funded?

Along with your application, please attach all documents that will assist the committee in their decision. Examples should include detailed quotes of work to be accomplished (if available), timeline of potential opening.

Applicant Signature:

Name Nicole L. Edridge Date: 11-10-23