

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Stephanie Mason, BEDC VP of Economic Development & Operations

Council Meeting: June 11, 2024

Subject: Presentation and recommendation to transfer City funds from the Brookings Economic Development Corporation to the Brookings Community Child Care Collaborative to support child care.

Presenters: Tim Reed, Brookings Economic Development Corporation Executive Director/CEO
Dr. Summer Schultz, Brookings School District Superintendent
Jody Hernandez, CEO of Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains

Summary:

Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC), Brookings School District (BSD), and Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains (BGC) recommend transferring the use of the cities' set-aside funds from the BEDC proposed center to the Collaborative for startup, remodeling and equipment. The funds would provide the support required to fully execute phase 1 planning of the Brookings Child Care Collaborative (BCCC) project proposed. BCCC will expand access to quality, affordable care that supports early learning development and community workforce participation.

Background:

Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) previously partnered with the Family Resource Network, SDSU, United Way, local child care centers, a Child Care Task Force and other community organizations to conduct the [2019 Workforce Survey Report](#) and [Brookings County Child Care Survey Report](#) in 2020. This led to the formation of the Brookings Early Care and Education Collaborative (BECEC) to guide efforts in determining actual childcare needs for the Brookings area.

In 2022, BECEC completed the [Brookings County Child Care Supply Plan 2022](#) and identified the need for 495 0-5 year old slots in Brookings specifically (900+ childcare slots County- wide). Brookings City Council set aside \$580,000 for childcare capacity expansion opportunities.

The following year, BEDC proposed an 80-slot childcare facility that included renovating existing business space and establishing an unidentified entrepreneur to manage the care facility. It was also during this time, Brookings School District initiated plans to include early learning classrooms to the elementary school building projects.

The Brookings Child Care Collaborative (BCCC) formed in early Fall 2023 to explore solutions that can leverage our community's unique challenges. Through continued

conversations, BCCC identified a community-based solution where BSD and BGC will offer continuous care for approximately 360 children 0-5 year-olds from 6:00am to 6:00pm; specifically the Boys and Girls Club of Brookings will add 130 0-3 child slots and the Brookings School District will incorporate early pre-k learning for up to 230 4-5 year-old children.

Item Details:

The proposed solution is truly a community collaborative effort that takes simultaneous growth to implement rapid expansion for childcare capacity in the Brookings area. BSD's commitment to early learning and the addition of Pre-K (4 to 5 year-old) space has catalyzed opportunities to renovate existing facilities and also expand 0 to 3 childcare.

As the [Project Proposal](#) outlines there are several advantages to the collaborative model including but not limited to

- affordability
- accessibility
- curriculum and development mapping
- high- quality care
- continuous care to support workforce participation
- financial sustainability

The Collaborative has already identified funds for 86% of the \$2,023,305 total project that support 360 total new 0 to 5 year-old child care slots between BSD and BGC.

Supporting this Resolution will seal the phase 1 proposal to initiate construction at the Brookings BGC to expand 0 to 3 childcare by 130 slots.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Economic Growth – the project will increase childcare capacity and bolster workforce participation. Families in the BCCC will have limited workday disruptions through the continuous care model of on-site childcare from 6:00am to 6:00pm including inclement weather and no school days. Supporting high-quality care initiatives simultaneously builds the workforce and community participation of tomorrow.

Financial Consideration:

Transfer \$580,000 of City funds from Brookings Economic Development Corporation for a child care facility and coordinator to the Collaborative for startup, remodeling, and equipment.

Options and Recommendation:

This item is for informational purposes only. A resolution to transfer the funds will be brought forward to the June 25 City Council meeting.

Supporting Documentation:

Memo

Proposal

Presentation

Resolution 22-063