

Project Proposal

Aiming to Expand Access to Quality Child Care



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Collaborative Overview



About Us

Brookings Child Care Collaborative (BCCC) supports a spectrum of learning for children ages 0 to 5 in the Brookings community. We embrace that the Childcare Crisis has many fronts and takes a community of partners just as passionate about quality childcare supporting early learning, while also supporting services that are affordable and accessible to all in the community.

The Brookings School District (BSD), Boys & Girls Club (BGC), and Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) are taking lead on creating a holistic plan that addresses childcare accessibility without duplicating services and resources. This collaborative thrives on robust community support with partnerships contributing to a sustainable financial and personnel framework.



Mission

Our mission is to expand access to quality, affordable childcare that supports early learning development and community workforce participation.



Vision

The BCCC supports early childhood development with age-based learning through continuous care. Providers are working together with a shared curriculum platform that emphasizes early literacy built on science of reading.



Our Solution



Continuum of Quality Care

Care services are available from 6:00AM to 6:00PM, Monday through Friday for children 0 to 5 years old. Including inclement weather and no school days.

High-Quality Learning



Centers work together to provide age appropriate, curriculum-based learning that establishes an equitable foundation for their educational journey.



Accessibility

Collaborative spaces offer settings where learners of diverse abilities and backgrounds can learn and thrive in a shared space.

Affordability



Leveraging a shared funding model, supports sustainability for Learning Centers and affordability for Parents and Community Supporters.



Founding Initiatives

Quality Child Care

Quality childcare offers children supportive, nurturing relationships with trusted teachers, and positive, diverse learning experiences. BCCC supports a spectrum of age-based learning for children ages 0 to 5 that builds at each stage of their educational journey. Early Learning Centers work with others in the Collaborative to identify and support the childcare needs of the Brookings community.



Safety



Curriculum
Mapping



Quality Learning
Opportunities



Collaborating for
Community Needs



Solution

Quality researched-based curriculum will be embedded into all care and learning facilities as well as a family and home connection. Literacy principles will be integrated, setting the stage for continuous academic achievement and a lasting love for reading.

Outcome

The Collaborative will organize collective efforts to create inclusive early learning opportunities that establish an equitable foundation for all young learners within our district. The significance of this support extends beyond mere child supervision, emphasizing the importance of quality care and early learning to lay the foundation for lifelong success among our youngest community members.



Founding Initiatives



Continuous Care



Affordability



Sponsorships



Accessibility for All

Childcare accessibility is a cornerstone of community well-being and economic prosperity. Ensuring that childcare services are readily available and easily accessible is not only beneficial for parents but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our community. Accessibility looks different for everyone, but some key areas are: supporting underserved demographics; enabling workforce participation; addressing low unemployment rates; economic impact; and quality care for lifelong success.



Solution

Child Care accessibility is a multifaceted aspect that goes beyond mere convenience. It is a fundamental pillar supporting the growth and prosperity of a community. By making childcare accessible, we not only empower parents to contribute meaningfully to the workforce but also invest in the future success of the next generation, creating a more resilient and vibrant community.

Outcome

Community-based childcare prioritizes supporting underserved demographics, adds essential childcare slots, and maintains an emphasis on quality care and early learning as an investment in the present and future well-being of our community. By addressing the needs of our youngest members, we pave the way for a more robust, skilled, and socially aware workforce, contributing to the long-term success and prosperity of our community.



Founding Initiatives



Financial Sustainability for All

Affordability is a key factor in ensuring that childcare services are accessible to a broad range of families within the community. The Collaborative aspires to leverage and coordinate existing public and private resources that exist in Brookings to ensure equitable and sustainable childcare access can be met for all children ages 0 to 5, while being financially sustainable for any individual contributor that is helping to administer care.



Parents By keeping quality childcare affordable, more parents can choose to participate in community workforce needs.



Providers Using a cost-share model, helps providers keep care expenses reasonable to support underserved communities.



Partners Local businesses and service organizations can also contribute to attract and retain workforce in the community.



Solution

Quality childcare and early learning, or lack of, comes at an expense, however BCCC identifies that keeping services affordable will require a multi-faceted approach involving collaboration between parents, government agencies, businesses, childcare facilitators, and the community.

Outcome

By addressing financial barriers and implementing creative solutions, we can ensure that all families have access to quality childcare services, promoting a more inclusive and thriving community.

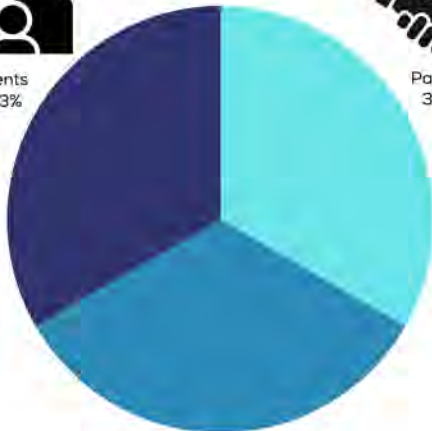
Funding Model



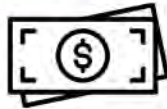
Parents
33.3%



Partners
33.3%



Subsidies
33.3%



Solution

The tri-share cost model is an innovative approach that involves contributions from parents, employers, and the community to share the financial responsibility of childcare. This model aims to keep childcare affordable for parents while recognizing the broader community and economic benefits of accessible and high-quality childcare.

Here's how the tri-share cost model can be applied:



Parent Contributions

- **Sliding-Scale Fees:** Implementing a sliding-scale fee structure based on the income of individual families. This ensures that parents contribute an amount that aligns with their financial capacity, making childcare more affordable for lower-income households.
- **Flexible Payment Plans:** Offering flexible payment plans, allowing parents to spread the cost of childcare over manageable intervals, such as weekly or monthly payments.



Partners and Employer Contributions

- **Employer-Sponsored Programs:** Collaborating with local employers to establish employer-sponsored childcare programs or subsidies. This involvement can include financial contributions, on-site childcare facilities, or flexible work arrangements that accommodate parents' childcare needs.
- **Tax Incentives for Employers:** Advocating for tax incentives or credits for businesses that support childcare initiatives. This can encourage more employers to participate in the tri-share model by providing financial support for childcare services.



Subsidies and Financial Assistance

- **Grant Applications:** Seeking grants from local foundations, government agencies, or organizations that support initiatives related to accessible childcare. These funds can complement the tri-share model and help sustain affordable childcare services.
- **Community Fundraising:** Organizing community fundraising events or campaigns to raise funds specifically for childcare. This can involve local businesses, community organizations, and individuals contributing to a shared fund dedicated to making childcare more affordable.

Outcome

By combining these elements, the tri-share cost model distributes the financial responsibility across multiple stakeholders, creating a sustainable and inclusive approach to childcare affordability. This model not only benefits parents but also fosters a sense of community involvement and corporate social responsibility. It recognizes that the advantages of accessible childcare extend beyond individual families and positively impact the workforce, community well-being, and economic development.

Project Overview



230+

4 to 5 Learners

130+

0 to 3 Learners

10+

Business Partners

2+

Established Learning
Centers



The Brookings Child Care Collaborative (BCCC) is the future of early learning through continuous childcare. BCCC is redesigning the delivery of early learning and continuous care for children under 5 in the Brookings area. Through multi-phase projects and collaborative efforts among Brookings School District, Boys & Girls Club of Brookings and Brookings Economic Development Corporation, we will expand access to quality, affordable care that supports early learning development and community workforce participation.



Project Timeline



FALL 2024

August 2024



District opens Pre-K (4 -5) learning space. BGC Care in the schools. Pre-K (3) and BGC Care available at BGC.



WINTER 2024/2025

September 2024 - January 2025



BGC starts renovations for 0 to 2 Early Learning.



SPRING 2025

January 2025



Adding Capacity for Early Learning for 0 to 2 at BGC



SUMMER 2025

June 2025



Continuum of Care for 0 to 5



BGC Care supports a continuum of care that will be open during out-of-school time and on weather inclement and no school days.





Startup Expenses



Equipment & Supplies

\$990k

- ✓ Pre-K Space Furnishings
- ✓ Tech Equipment
- ✓ Early Learning Space Furnishings
- ✓ Sensory and Educational Play Equipment - toys, books, playground



Education and Staffing

\$355k

- ✓ Science of Reading Curriculum
- ✓ Age-Based Curriculum 0 to 5
- ✓ Trauma-Based Programming Counselor
- ✓ Staff Training & Certification
- ✓ Collaborative Development Director - Hiring & 1st Year Salary



Construction

\$730k

- ✓ BGC Architect Expenses
- ✓ BGC Renovations
- ✓ Children's Museum of South Dakota Consulting fees

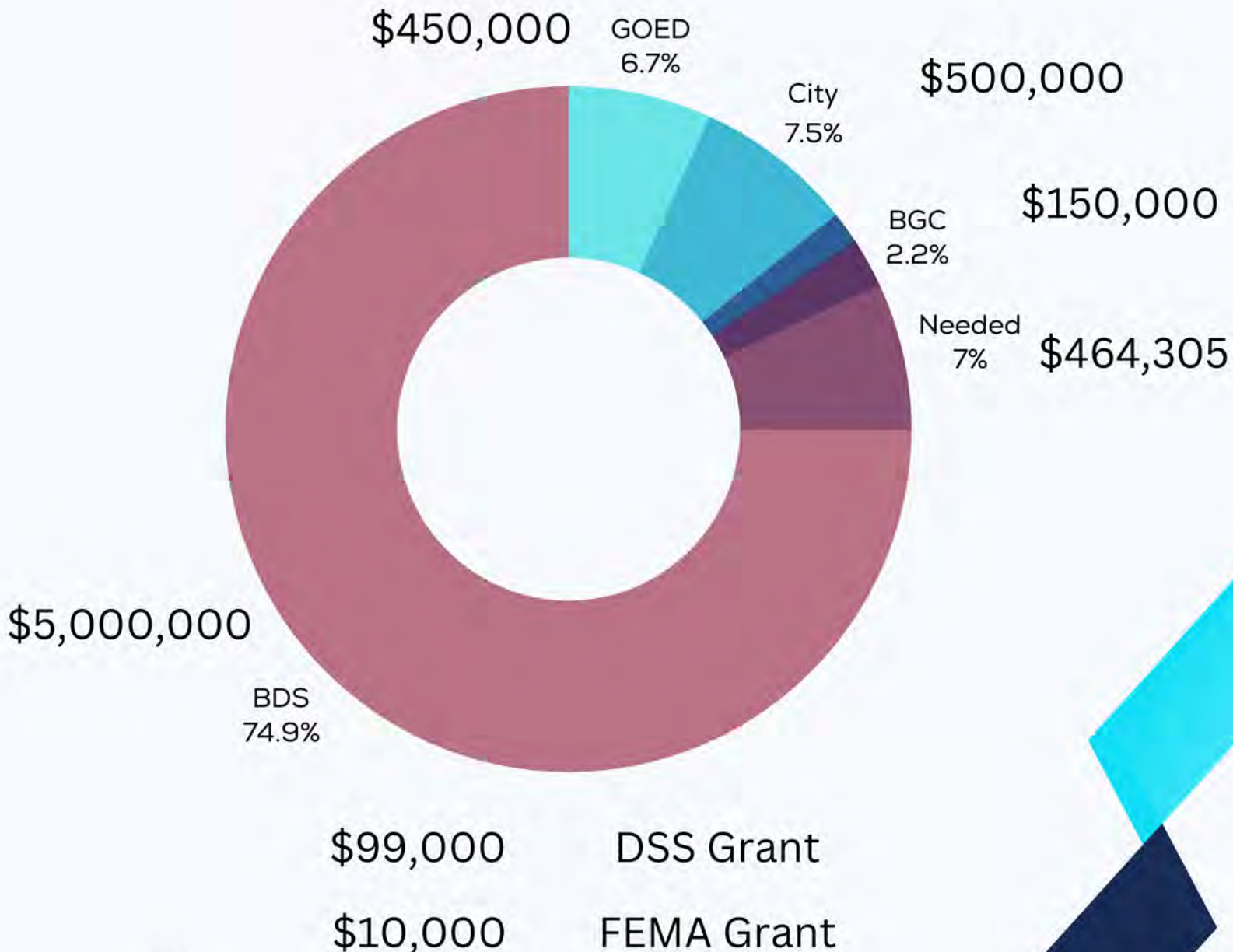
Total Project: \$2,023,305



Startup Funds

Total Project: \$2,023,305

- **\$1,559,000** Potential Funds Identified
- **\$464,305** in funds still needed





Collaborative Partners' Support



Boys & Girls Club

Board Member



Keith Mahlum

SDSU Foundation, VP of Development

"By bringing together various stakeholders, including educators, businesses, families, and community organizations, the collaborative has the potential to create a comprehensive and integrated system of support for young children and their families in an affordable, accessible, and equitable way."



School District

Board President



Wes Tschetter

Retired SDSU CFO

"I am particularly impressed by the collaborative's dedication to delivering an engaging, age-appropriate shared curriculum platform that is not only aligned with early learning standards but also focuses on literacy."



Economic Development

Board President



Tom Fishback

First Bank & Trust, VP

"I believe BCCC can have a profound impact on addressing the shortage of childcare, particularly for children ages 0 to 3 years old, and subsequently expand opportunities to re-engage workforce in the Brookings area."





Community Support



Local Government

Elected Official



Oepke Niemeyer
City Mayor

"The funds provided through this grant would enable the Collaborative to make significant strides in improving access to quality childcare and early learning opportunities for children ages 0 to 3 in our community."



Higher Education

South Dakota State University



Evan Ortlieb
Dean of Education and Human Services

"One of the key strengths of this project is its collaboration with South Dakota State University (SDSU). SDSU has a long-standing commitment to early childhood education and has been instrumental in creating award-winning and age-appropriate curricula."



Interactive Education

Children's Museum of South Dakota



Kate Treiber
Executive Director

"Parents are more successful when they feel supported and have the option of placing their young children in a safe environment, with trained caregivers that provide for their developmental needs. These parents are then able to support workforce needs and bolster economic growth and stability in our community."





Community Support



Mental Health

Brookings Behavioral Health
& Wellness



Brookings Behavioral
Health & Wellness

Mary Beth Fishback, MSPAS, MPH
CEO

"We believe that by working together through the Collaborative, we can make a significant impact on the lives of young learners and set them on a path towards lifelong success."



Employer

Daktronics Inc.



Reece Kurtenbach
CEO

"As a long-standing business deeply invested in the prosperity of our community, we recognize the critical importance of supporting families with young children during their most formative years. The expansion of age 0-5 collaborative efforts represents a visionary approach to addressing the diverse needs of our youngest community members."



Employer

Valero



Brian Brinkman
Plant Manager

"Investing in early childhood education and care is not just a social responsibility but essential to the successful future of our business."





Team Expertise

Our team comprises experts in various fields, including economic, early childhood, and workforce development. We bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to every project.



Tim Reed

 **BEDC CEO**

Tim Reed, is the CEO of Brookings EDC and is currently serving as District 7's Senator representative to the South Dakota Legislature. Before his election to the Legislature, he served in Brookings City Government for a total of 13 years, 8 years as Mayor. In 2019, he chaired the Legislature Task Force focused to increase Community Services and Caregivers Support. In 2024, Tim continues to advocate for improved services to the childcare ecosystem at the local and state levels.



Dr. Summer Schultz

 **BSD Superintendent**

Dr. Summer M. Schultz brings 16 years of superintendent experience to her role at Brookings School District in South Dakota. She holds a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration/School Superintendency and has a background in special education and technology education, providing diverse insights into the educational landscape. Passionate about advocating for workforce development, state-wide teacher recruitment, and early childhood opportunities, Dr. Schultz actively contributes to various boards and organization, including the AASA Early Learning Cohort. She current serves as Past President of the SD School Superintendents Association and on the Board of Trustees for Dakota State University.



Jody Hernandez

 **BGCNP CEO**

Jody Hernandez, CEO of Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Plains has extensive experience in youth programs, organizational leadership, and the cultivation of strategic relationships through her 33 years of work in non-profit leadership roles in Missouri, Indiana, Texas, and, most recently, South Dakota. She is passionate about working collaboratively to design and deliver dynamic programming that addresses the diverse needs of young people and expanding, empowering, and equipping all youth with the skills and resources they need to succeed.





Brookings

Community Child Care
Collaborative



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