

Child Care Facility Grant Request

The BEDC is requesting \$500,000 grant from the City of Brookings American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to complete a \$1.5M Child Care Facility. The facility will be constructed in the City of Brookings to increase the number of available licensed, birth to 5-year-old child care slots. This facility would be leased to an organization or individual at a discounted rate to operate a child care center.

Fulfilling A Community Need

The Brookings Early Care and Education (BECEC), and the BEDC in coordination with First Children's Finance completed a Brookings County Child Care Supply Plan. The plan's need analysis shows a shortage of 915 slots for children under the age of five with all parents in the workforce. There are 628 registered and licensed child care slots with an estimated need of 1,544. The report states that a portion of the need is currently supported through unregistered care, work force under-employment, and parents working different shifts. In the 2020 Brookings County Child Care Survey, respondents shared that many families would prefer licensed child care. In that same survey, respondents stated the concern of not having enough child care options and available slots. The City of Brookings surveyed organizations and citizens on the use of the ARPA funds provided to the City. Child care was on one of the top three priorities.

Partnerships

The BEDC will work with community organizations to build and operate the center. Before the funds from the City are released commitments of matching funds at the level of 2:1 will be secured. Also, an organization to build and own the building will be identified and presented to the City for approval.

The building organization will follow the City of Brookings, Green Building Practices per Resolution 22-010 and American Disability Act Policies. Detailed plans for the facility will be shared with the City for review.

Outcome and Metrics of Success

The goal of the facility is to add licensed child care slots for birth to 5-years-old by 80. Licensed slots can be subsidized by the State based on an income sliding scale. Data is not available on the need for subsidized slots but the number of subsidized slots will be measured and reported.