

September 10, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute agreements, and all necessary documents or subsequent amendments, including amending the award amount, with County of Los Angeles to accept and expend grant funding in the amount of \$480,000 for the Long Beach Early Learning Hub Educational and Developmental Services, for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, with the option to extend the agreement for three additional one-year periods, at the discretion of the City Manager; and,

Increase appropriations in the Health Fund Group in the Health and Human Services Department by \$480,000, offset by grant revenue. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the County of Los Angeles to expand services of the Early Learning Hub Program (ECE Hub), a digital early childhood enrollment hub for use by both community members and early childhood education providers, operated by Community Partners, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving as a fiscal sponsor for the Mayor's Fund. Approximately 35 percent of the 30,000 Long Beach children aged birth to five, reside in households that utilize public assistance. Currently, finding a childcare and education program for a young child, which meets that family's need, is difficult and time consuming, making access inequitable between those who have the time and connection to find the right program and those who do not.

In December 2023, the City entered into a contract to pilot the possibility of using a digital early childhood hub to ease access to early childhood education by streamlining enrollment services for early childhood education programs onto a single platform. Since the launch of the ECE Hub in August 2023, nearly 3,500 individuals have engaged with the ECE Hub to find childcare placement, and nearly 1,900 individual profiles have been created. Twenty-nine early childhood care and education providers, a total of 90 sites across the city, have created a profile in the system, with ever growing interest from additional providers.

The \$480,000 in funding will be to provide services and support to community members with children, ages birth to five, who are receiving services from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or children who are at risk of DCFS intervention, and their families who reside in the city of Long Beach and surrounding cities. This additional support

will facilitate access for families seeking early learning programs and additional resources. Additionally, this funding will allow for continued support to all families seeking early care and education by supporting the continued operations of the ECE Hub.

This opportunity is also in alignment with the 2018-2023 City-Wide Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan, which was received and filed on October 2, 2018. This plan included seven goals to support and strengthen the early childhood education system in Long Beach, including Goal 1 to support and build strong and resilient families and Goal 2 to increase access and affordability of infant through pre-k early care and education services. The Early Learning Hub is one of the collaborative efforts noted in the plan as a means to enhance access to early care and learning services for families through an integrated network of partners. This additional effort will afford the Early Learning Hub the ability to not only engage in early learning opportunities, but to explore the possibility of connecting families to additional wrap around services through the system and network of support.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Anita Lakhani on August 20, 2024, and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on August 22, 2024.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on September 10, 2024, to ensure the City can accept and expend these funds within the performance period of the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will receive grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$480,000 for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. An appropriation increase is requested in the amount of \$480,000 in the Health Fund Group in the Health and Human Services Department, offset by grant revenue. Any indirect costs that might not ultimately be eligible for grant funds will be funded by the Health Operating Fund, General Fund, or other eligible funds. There is no match or in-kind service mandate required. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison King
Health and Human Services

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER