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New London School Readiness Council Meeting

URGENT RFP Meeting/Vote

March 25 2024

Zoom

12:00 - 1:12 pm

Notes

Attendance: Kelly Davis, Tina Salcedo, Jersa Valencia, Erin Mokler, Reona Dyess, Jill Fidrych, Adrenna Paolillo, Jennifer Zubek, Debbi Poirier, Ola Szczesny, Cynthia Ritchie, Robin Pierce, Lynn Reichart, Monica Franzone, Andrea Watson, Brittany Watts, Roberta Travers, Ninon Guinassi, Marissa Owsianik

IMPORTANT

Kelly will:

1. Send an urgent e-mail to OEC for answers to our questions.
2. She will then send an e-mail for voting to the council.
3. She will draft an announcement for public notice so it is ready to be sent out April 1/ASAP once the vote is received.
4. If info is received by OEC by tomorrow the vote will be due by **Thursday March 28.**
5. E-mails were sent with the timeline of the RFP process, as well as the live document for available slots. - **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PROGRAM'S SLOT DATA.**

Agenda Item		Comments/desired outcomes
Opening		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally OEC decided closed RFP, continuation of funding • Then decided to open it up if SRC wanted to vote • If we decide to open up RFP, no additional funding- just new programs will have access to the available 13 slots we have available • Any programs that join will need to follow current SR procedures. They would need to be NAYAC accredited • Not guaranteed to be able to join in next year • If we decide to open the RFP- we need to put out the public notice by April 1. To meet the timeline new programs need to e-mail interests by April 5. • TA session required for new programs to review requirements • All info needs to come back-non partisan readers to read applications and score them. Then, follow regular process for review at beginning of May. Decisions made at May meeting. All info in by May 23 to OEC.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 3 is deadline for continuation paperwork if we decide to keep it closed. We will still get to maintain the 13 slots in already approved programs. • Increasing the amount per space for next year- Kelly will share spreadsheet doc with the new funding decisions for programs • No more changes can be made after May 1 • We are currently at 92% utilization- we previously were at 72% • Of the 13 slots not used- causes amongst programs are- mainly staffing challenges, turnover in administration, small size of program • 25% of slots are utilized by out of district • Total of 8 infant and toddler- this means a total of 2 or 3 preschool slots are used for this • PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE LIVE DOCUMENT TO KEEP SLOT AVAILABILITY UP TO DATE. KELLY SHARED THE DOCUMENT BY E-MAIL AND IN THE MEETING CHAT. • The reason the timeline is so tight is to allow time to make changes for funds by July 1 • Slots, with the exception of Mitchell, are full day/full year slots • We can wait for answers to our questions from OEC, and vote can be put out digitally • Superintendent Ritchie brought up a creative idea to consider allowing programs to utilize their slots at a different location. • Question about if there are known programs within the community would be interested in applying. Currently one SRC member is aware of one center in Waterford who is interested. • A Google form will be sent for voting once our questions are answered. • Concerns about the vote being confidential. It is against our bylaws as a council. • If a program applies- the slots could be converted to infant toddler. • LEARN is building a new birth to eight school. The school is several years out so Adrenna believes they would not be eligible for application at this time.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are concerns since we lost 4 slots at the beginning of the year. Are programs strategically able to utilize their slots, or would we be better off opening up the application so these available slots could be used immediately?• Opening this would just allow for a one year cycle. The next vote would be next Spring for another open application. It would be a FULL RFP so all of the slots would go back into a bucket NO MATTER HOW WE VOTE THIS TIME.• Kelly will send an urgent e-mail to OEC for answers to our questions. She will then send an e-mail for voting to the council.• Kelly will draft an announcement so it ready for April 1 for the public notice to be sent ASAP once the vote is received.• If info is received by OEC by tomorrow the vote will be due by Thursday March 28.
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