MINUTES

Attendees: Kit Cramer, Leslie Anderson, Linda McDaniel, Mark Taft, Martin Moore, Carol Steen, Pam Holcombe, Philip Belcher, Diana Anthony, Maia Sloan, Al Whitesides, Heather Zanzig (virtual), Mistie Reising-Cogbill (virtual), Susan Mims (virtual)

Absent: Jasmine Beach-Ferrara

Staff in attendance: Sara Joss, Angelyn Johnson, Michael Frue, Burnett Walz, Johanna Cano, Rachael Sawyer (virtual)

Welcome

Minutes

- Approval of minutes from April 4, 2024
  - Motion to approve by Kit Cramer. Seconded by Mark Taft. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

New Business

- Grant Review/Allocate Funds
  - The committee continued to discuss the applications, scores and overall funding philosophy for FY25.
  - Staff presented three updated scenarios based on the criteria the committee requested from the April 4th meeting.
    - Scenario A (18 projects funded): Flat funding (FY24 awarded amount) for all renewal projects scoring over 80%. *
      - Remainder of $273,963 allocated to the Buncombe Partnership for Children NC PreK project.
      - *If an organization requests less for FY25 than their FY24 award, allocate the FY25 requested amount.
    - Scenario B (16 projects funded): Flat funding (FY24 awarded amount) for all renewal projects scoring over 80% with slots or workforce strategies. *
      - Remainder of $422,986 allocated to the Buncombe Partnership for Children NC PreK project.
      - *If an organization requests less for FY25 than their FY24 award, allocate the FY25 requested amount.
    - Scenario C (15 projects funded): Flat funding (FY24 awarded amount) for all renewal projects scoring over 80% with slots or workforce strategies if at least 75% of the committee recommended funding. *
      - Allocate 75% of FY24 funding to Community Action Opportunities' projects, based on previous performance and fund draw-down.

Meeting materials are posted online at www.BuncombeCounty.org/Grants

- Remainder of $709,432 allocated to the Buncombe Partnership for Children NC PreK project.
- *If an organization requests less for FY25 than their FY24 award, allocate the FY25 requested amount.
  - Kit Cramer made a motion to approve Scenario C. Seconded by Mark Taft.
    - The committee unanimously approved Scenario C for FY25 funding. Susan Mims voted by proxy through Philip Belcher. Susan confirmed this in an email to staff that stated, "I'm sorry I had to drop off the call to hop on a plane. I texted Phillip that my vote was for option C. I proxied to him to vote for me. I hope that worked."
- For FY26 grant process, the committee would like to further define "Workforce" to separate out compensation issues from workforce development.
- Recommendation for new committee members to have expertise in early childhood education workforce issues. Staff will send the article published on the County website to the committee for their use with outreach assistance.
- The committee decided to appoint a sub-group to work with Buncombe Partnership for Children on their NC PreK initiative and priorities since they received partial funding. Diana Anthony, Maia Sloan, and Martin Moore volunteered to serve on the sub-group.
- Timeline review
  - April 26 – recommendations are due to the County's Budget Office
  - Those recommendations will be included in the County's Budget Message that will be published mid-May. Once that occurs, staff will reach out to applicants to let them know if they have been recommended for funding.
  - The final approval of funding recommendations will occur when the Board of Commissioners adopt the budget mid-June.

Announcements
Public Comment

- Caitlin Johnson, Pepi Acebo and Brian Repass made public comments.

Next Meeting

There is no committee meeting in May. The next meeting is June 4, 2024, 1:00-2:30 pm, 200 College St, Ground Floor Conference Room