

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: November 20, 2018 **Approximate Start Time:** 1:30pm **Approximate Length:** 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Universal Child Care Grant Proposal Partnership

Department: H3S – Children, Family & Community Connections (formerly Children, Youth & Families)

Presenters: Bridget Dazey, Executive Director, Clackamas Workforce Partnership and Co-Chair, Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County, and Rodney Cook, Director, Children, Family & Community Connections.

Other Invitees: Jessica Amaya, Program Manager, Self-Sufficiency, Oregon Department of Human Services Clackamas Offices

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

MOU support for the grant submission to JP Morgan Chase with the goal of establishing a mechanism for a public-private partnership to create cost models, phase-in options, and potential for leveraging existing and new funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (why and why now):

JP Morgan Chase has launched Advancing Cities to “promote inclusive growth through collaboration.” Funding will be awarded to innovative, cross-sector projects that result in multidimensional solutions – more people connected to jobs with career pathways and living with financial security; more small business owners growing and hiring; and economically vibrant neighborhoods. If awarded, funding will be for three years and up to three million dollars.

Childcare is a significant barrier across multiple systems in Clackamas County:

- **Cost and availability** of childcare prevent people from working or attending skill-building training. An employee working full time at minimum wage would need 58% of their income to pay for childcare for a toddler.
- **Gaps** in availability of specialized childcare (infants, children with disabilities, night and weekends, and geography).
- **Childcare career pathway** is not financially stable. Most childcare workers make minimum wage and have few employment benefits.

Clackamas County partners propose to develop a universal childcare system to increase financial security for county residents and ensure that quality childcare is available for all. Affordable childcare will ensure that residents of Clackamas County have increased ability to participate in the workforce, as well as training programs. Increasing the financial viability of childcare careers will increase the number of childcare workers, and therefore the quality and quantity of available care.

A Memorandum of Understanding is required from all lead partners on the grant proposal:

- Board of County Commissioners
- Early Childhood system partners, including Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County and Children, Family & Community Connections Division

- Education including Clackamas ESD Childcare Resource and Referral and Clackamas Community College
- Business partners including local Chambers of Commerce

Board support of this grant proposal fits several areas of Clackamas County’s strategic focus: 1) grow a vibrant economy; 2) build a strong infrastructure; and 3) ensure safe, healthy, secure communities.

There are no previous Board actions on this issue. The grant proposal is due November 30, 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost? N/A

What is the funding source? JP Morgan Chase

There are no fiscal impacts to County or local businesses for agreeing to sign an Memorandum Of Understanding.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- **How does this item align with your Department’s Strategic Business Plan goals?**

This item addresses the H3S goal to provide **equitable access to services**. Universal childcare will increase family financial stability by improving their ability to access employment opportunities and training while providing access to quality childcare environments for their children. It will also impact childcare workers’ access to employment. The goals of Children, Family & Community Connections include **family stability**, of which quality childcare access and gainful employment are primary components, and also **readiness for kindergarten**, which is affected by the quality of early childhood environments such as childcare.

Additionally, expanding access to high quality childcare, building the supply of quality care, increasing access to training for childcare providers, and increasing childcare provider wages are legislative priorities of the Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County.

- **How does this item align with the County’s Performance Clackamas goals?**

This project addresses several of the County’s Performance Clackamas goals. Universal childcare will help grow a **vibrant economy** in a number of ways: by making it possible for families to afford the childcare they need in order to become employed and/or to participate in training opportunities to advance their careers; by creating a mechanism for childcare workers to be paid a living wage, and thus attracting the best and brightest to the field; by ensuring businesses have a steady supply of workers; and attract new business to the county.

It will **build a strong infrastructure** by supporting families through affordable and quality childcare and making childcare a quality, living wage job.

Supporting the well-being of families and the business sector in these ways will **ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities**.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

Grant requires participation (Memorandum Of Understanding) of local government leadership on the project, in this case assessment, planning, and design of universal childcare.

OPTIONS:

A formal partnership through a Memorandum Of Understanding with a local government entity is a required component of the grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Board participation on the proposed project through a Memorandum Of Understanding. This partnership will strengthen the grant application and will facilitate assessing the issues associated with childcare, as well as development of a strategy to address those issues. Without the support of the Board of County Commissioners, the grant application is not likely to be funded.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachments to this worksheet include Advancing Cities Grant Project Planning and Advancing Cities Challenge 2018 Request For Proposals.

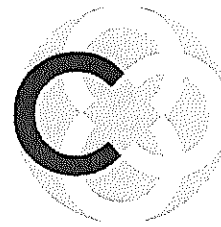
SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Korene Mather @ 503-650-5683



Background

JP Morgan Chase has launched Advancing Cities to “promote inclusive growth through collaboration.” They are seeking cross-sector projects that lead to more people connected to jobs with career pathways and living with financial security; more small business owners growing and hiring; and economically vibrant neighborhoods. They are also interested in promoting equity for underserved communities, businesses, and individuals. Projects should be innovative and focus on areas where systems intersect, resulting in multidimensional solutions. Over the next 5 years, Chase will provide 4 - 6 Advancing Cities grants annually; grants will be for 3 years and up to \$3 million. Counties or regional partnerships can also apply.

Clackamas County Proposal: Universal Childcare

Childcare is consistently listed as a barrier through multiple systems in Clackamas County:

- Both **cost and availability** of childcare prevent people from working or attending skill-building training. A Clackamas County worker making minimum wage would need 58% of their income to pay for childcare for a toddler.
- There are **gaps** in availability: infant care, care for children with disabilities, night and weekend care for shift workers, geography (providers are unevenly distributed).
- The **childcare career pathway** is not financially stable. Childcare workers generally do not make a living wage. Most make minimum wage and few have benefits such as sick leave, health insurance, or retirement. Attracting talent to this industry is imperative to the economy of our region.

Clackamas County partners are proposing to develop a universal childcare system, focused on increasing financial stability for county residents and ensuring that quality childcare is available for all. The goal is to establish a public-private partnership where cost models, phase-in options, and layer existing funding with potential new funding.

Ensuring that Clackamas residents can access childcare that is affordable will increase workforce participation, as well as participation in training programs. Ensuring that childcare workers make a living wage will increase the quality and quantity of childcare available, as workers are able to make a long-term commitment to the career field and invest in training.

A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed by Lead Partners and is forthcoming.

Lead Partners

- **Workforce development:** Clackamas Workforce Partnership
- **Local government & early childhood:** Clackamas County (including Early Learning Hub)
- **Education:** Clackamas ESD (Childcare Resource & Referral), Clackamas Community College
- **Business partners:** TBD-may include individual businesses, associations, etc.