



T E X A S

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Cliff Keheley, City Manager

THROUGH: Jerry Dittman, Deputy City Manager *J Conrad 3-8-17*

FROM: Elizabeth Harrell, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: March 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas Request for Participation

Workforce Solutions of Greater Dallas administers a childcare subsidy program in Dallas County through the ChildCareGroup. Workforce Solutions is required to secure local match partners in order to maximize federal funding. Since the City of Mesquite has an afterschool program that is tuition based, Workforce Solutions believes the City could assist them in meeting their match requirement. There is no exchange of funds and all that is required from the City is a certification of expenditures.

The City would report all expenses of the recreation after school program (RASP) to Workforce Solutions on a quarterly basis. The City can set the amount they expect to spend between October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. Workforce Solutions is approximately \$314,000 short of their required match amount of \$4M and would be able to match more if the City of Mesquite participates.


The benefit of this data to Workforce Solutions is to help to retain federal funding. Workforce Boards in Texas are required to secure the match dollars to draw down the federal funds to provide childcare subsidy to children that are eligible for the program. The State sets a target of the average number of children served in an area per day and in Dallas County, Workforce Solutions serves over 9,700 children. Of that number, there are approximately 1,027 children in the City of Mesquite benefiting from these services. In the past fiscal year, 51 licensed childcare providers in Mesquite received \$4,065,745 in funding. The federal law does not provide for direct relationships, and Workforce Solutions reports independent expenses as a whole community.

By participating in the childcare match effort, the City of Mesquite is placed alongside the City of Dallas as the only municipalities contributing more direct care dollars for low-income kids in Dallas County than other municipalities. The quarterly reports elevate the City's reputation before Workforce Solutions' Board of Directors as a community champion. The current list of partners includes City of Dallas, Dallas ISD, Irving ISD, Richardson ISD, Dallas County Community College District and the University of North Texas Dallas.

The Mayor and Workforce Solutions' President have been discussing more ways to work together, and our participation would be another relationship builder. They have been primarily discussing economic and workforce development, but quality childcare is another building block of community and workforce development.

If the City declines to provide the information to Workforce Solutions, they will lose some funding but guarantees they are still here for the community. The Mesquite office on Galloway is one of the busiest in the county.

Legal advised that City Council approval is required in order to sign the agreement. If you concur with our participation, I will prepare the item for Council approval.



Elizabeth Harrell
Director of Parks and Recreation

Approved: 

Cliff Keheley, City Manager