



May 6, 2024

To whom it may concern,

As economic development professionals we understand the vital importance child care plays in helping businesses to be successful. Many workers are parents with children that need adult care and supervision. While virtually all of the businesses we work with lament the lack of quality, affordable child care. They identify infant and toddler care, weekend and evening care, care for sick children, and emergent/emergency care as some of the most difficult, if not impossible to find.

We recognize this project will only take on a small slice of the child care gap, the issue of crisis/respite care. This is a great start and a vital service, much in need, for our community. We strongly support building services for families that encounter a crisis situation or simply need a break from care-giving.

We offer to lend our support in reaching out to employers to gather information from their workforce. This data will provide rich information for the needs and gap analysis portion of this work. We also offer to engage business owners in a conversation about how they could be part of a community solution to this and other child care needs.

We have collaborated with the Child Care Action Council for many years. Most recently we worked together on two large scale community projects. We were partners in assessing the child care system including the needs of parents, businesses and licensed child care owners under a Department of Commerce Grant a few years ago, and they provided invaluable assistance in the distribution of COVID relief funds by gathering information from licensed providers and suggesting feasible methods for establishing needs and distributing funds. We appreciate the strong partnership we have created with them. We have no doubt they have the capacity, community connections and strategic approach necessary to carry out the needs assessment, asset mapping, and planning aspects of this project.

It is our hope that you fund this project and support our community in moving forward with planning for crisis/respite child care services.

Sincerely,

Mike Reid
Economic Development Director
City of Olympia

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