

4 R Kids Program and Service Committee Minutes
February 5, 2013 at 1:00
Support Services
306 Public Square
Greenfield, Iowa 50849
Telephone conference number
605-475-3200 Access code 863913 (plus the #)

The meeting was conducted by conference call at 1:00 with the base at Support Services. Those attending were Val Cameron, Kendalyn Huff, Cynthia Moffitt, Julie Feirer, Ann Bass, and Debra Schrader.

FY2014 Preschool tuition and policy (*action requested*)

Val Cameron, preschool enrichment coordinator provided the committee with possible changes of the current preschool tuition policy as well as information as to how other ECI areas are administering preschool tuition assistance. It was consensus of the committee to recommend changes to the preschool policy for FY2014; a new policy is included with these minutes.

Semi Annual Reports (*information*)

The committee reviewed the semiannual progress reports. It is to be noted the majority of the programs were meeting benchmarks or close to meeting benchmarks. There are no major concerns at this time.

Family Support (*information*)

It was noted that the legislation will require 90% of family support programs to meet definitions of evidenced based or promising practice (Iowa Family Support Credential) by July 1, 2016. Partners in Family Development with PAT will have the Iowa Family Support peer review March 6-9, 2013 and will earn the IFSC. Southwestern Community College with PAT program will go through the credentialing process fall of 2013 and earn the IFSC in FY2014. ISU Extension with Great Beginnings will not meet the definitions as stated in legislative language and they are currently looking for solutions. It was consensus of the committee that come request for renewal time that Extension be allowed to utilize a different curriculum to meet the intent of the legislation.

The committee reviewed the state wide data for family support compared to the funded programs for FY2012. It is to be noted that it's difficult to compare programs as there are many variables.

FY2014 Request for Renewal timeline (*action requested*)

A draft timeline for the FY2014 request for renewal process was discussed. It is recommended to proceed with this timeline.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



**Draft FY2014 Preschool Tuition/Scholarship Policy
Amended 2-5-13**

Item	Preschool Tuition Assistance Criteria
Preschool application	<p>A universal preschool tuition assistance application will be utilized; the application includes but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County the child resides in • Mailing addresses and physical address • Email address • Ethnicity • Has the child attended preschool in the past • Foster child data - foster children are automatically approved (no income verification is required) • Age of the child by September 15th • Other assistance the family participates in (i.e. housing, FIP, WIC etc) • Attendance policy – 90% is an expectation
Quality preschool	<p>A menu of quality measures shall be required and is as follows Department of Education program or Department of Human Services Licensed program, QPPS, NAEYC, QRS levels 3-5, and Head Start (i.e. timelines will be required) It is important to note that verification is a critical component for quality, however capacity for verification may be limited</p>
Priority by age	<p>The following priorities are for preschool tuition assistance: 1st priority = 4 year olds by September 15 2nd priority = 3 year olds by September 15 3rd priority = 5 year olds by September 15</p>
Income verification	<p>Income verification is as follows 1st priority for income verification is a Federal tax return; 2nd priority is FIP and/or unemployment benefits; additional income verification considerations may be considered for extenuating circumstances (added - i.e. most recent months pay stubs)</p>
Service area	<p>Children and preschools that reside in the service area are 1st priority If the ECI area is not at capacity of funds or there are compelling reasons to have a child attend a preschool outside the service area it may be considered. Additionally, if a preschool is utilized outside the service area, quality standards apply. It is up to the discretion of the preschool enrichment project to make determinations regarding extenuating circumstances.</p>
Provider hours of operation	<p>Preschools that provide 4 year old programming are required to offer at a minimum of 10 hours of instruction per week. Preschools that provide 3 year old programming have no required minimum hours of instruction per week.</p>
Hours per family	<p>A ½ day is the maximum amount allowed for preschool tuition assistance.</p>
Sliding Fee	<p>Any family over 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will have their application for funding reviewed on an individual basis. A sliding fee scale is required; Federal poverty guidelines shall be utilized and with the following sliding fee schedule 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% respectively (example – a family of 4 making up to \$29,438 annually will receive 90% tuition assistance).</p>
Caps	<p>Preschools shall have a cap of \$150 per month maximum even if tuition is over the \$150 maximum amount.</p>
Use of other government funded preschool programs	<p>Does not meet the eligibility requirements for any other state or federal preschool program (i.e Head Start, DHS funding) or those programs are at capacity and cannot offer services within a reasonable length of time. Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program slots will be encouraged to be filled before providing preschool tuition assistance.</p>



FY2014 Request for Renewal Timeline Draft

Overview

The 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area board implemented a three year contract process starting with FY2013, therefore FY2014 and FY2015 will have a contract renewal process pending contractor performance, funding and state of Iowa mandates. The Board reserves the right to offer a request for proposal process.

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Program and Service Committee presents funding recommendations/plan at 4 R Kids board meeting.

Friday, May 3, 2013

Program and Service Committee face to face meeting to review Request for Renewal's and prepare recommendations.

Monday, April 22, 2013

Request for Renewal hard copies due into the Board; RFR is required to be to the executive director by April 22, 2013 by 4:00 P.M. no post marks allowed. Six one-sided copies are required.

Friday, April 19, 2013

Request for renewal is required to be sent by electronic mail in **Microsoft word** to the executive director by 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 22, 2013

Release Request for Renewal to current contractors.

Thursday, February 21, 2012

Board discusses Request for Renewal to be released with given timelines.

February - March, 2013

Director works on RFR process