

State of New Mexico
County of Grant

Resolution No. R-04-16

Designating the Community Partnership for Children
as the Recognized Local Council
for a Federal Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA) Grant

Whereas, the Community Partnership for Children is a broad-based community coalition working to improve the quality of *all* childcare in Grant County, to create additional options for childcare services in both center-based and home care settings, to increase awareness among parents, childcare providers, and the community of early childhood development & the impact of quality, early education on young children, to improve school readiness and reduce the number of children requiring referral for special services, and to increase the number of highly trained and educated adults entering the early childhood workforce; and,

Whereas, the Community Partnership for Children includes representatives of all early childhood programs and school districts in the county, including Western New Mexico University Early Childhood Programs, El Grito Head Start, faith-based, private, and home childcare programs; and,

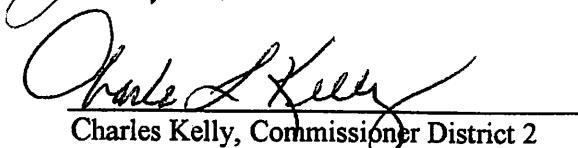
Whereas, the Community Partnership for Children also includes representatives of health and human service agencies, La Familia Childcare Resource and Referral, local governments, community leaders from business and labor, as well as parents and other community members, making it a truly representative coalition working in behalf of families and young children; and,

Whereas, the Community Partnership for Children has conducted extensive local survey research, documenting the extent and nature of the childcare crisis in Grant County and has developed plans for addressing these needs.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Grant County Board of Commissioners designates the Community Partnership for Children as the official Local Council for purposes of applying for federal assistance through the Early Learning Opportunities Act discretionary grant, and that the Commission recognizes Gila Regional Medical Center as the fiscal agent for any funds received through this grant on behalf of the Community Partnership for Children.

Approved and Adopted during an open meeting on July 8, 2004:

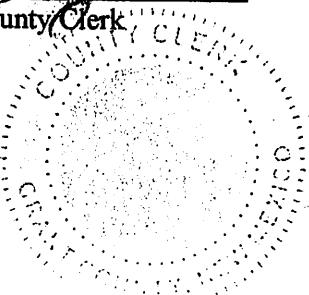

Joe Arellano, Commissioner District 1


Charles Kelly, Commissioner District 2

Henry Torres, Commissioner District 3

Attest:


Jeff Carabajal, County Clerk



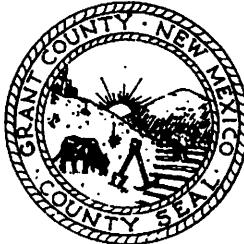
COMMISSIONERS

JOSEPH F. ARELLANO
DISTRICT 1

CHARLES L. KELLY
DISTRICT 2

HENRY TORRES
DISTRICT 3

GRANT COUNTY



COUNTY MANAGER

HARRY BURGESS

Telephone: (505) 574-0008
Fax: (505) 574-0073

June 8, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the authority granted by the Grant County Board of Commissioners, I hereby designate the Community Partnership for Children as the eligible Local Council for Grant County, New Mexico for the purposes of the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) discretionary grant program. I also authorize the Community Partnership for Children to develop and submit an application to the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Child Care Bureau in response to the ELOA Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-ACF-CCB-ELOA-04-01, and to administer the implementation of the project if funded.

I hereby authorize Gila Regional Medical Center to serve as the Fiscal Agent on behalf of the Community Partnership for Children and the Fiscal Agent's Employer Identification Number (EIN) is: 85-6000321 and this EIN has been entered in Item 6 on the Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424).

As required under the statute governing ELOA, the Community Partnership for Children includes: (1) Representatives of local agencies that will be directly affected by early learning programs assisted under the ELOA and this announcement; (2) parents; (3) other individuals concerned with early learning issues in the locality, such as representatives of entities providing elementary education, child care resource and referral services, early learning opportunities, child care, and health services; and (4) other key community leaders.

The Community Partnership for Children was responsible for preparing and submitting the enclosed application for the ELOA discretionary grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Torres".

Henry Torres
Chairman, Grant County Commission

The need for expanded childcare and family support services in Grant County has been well documented and reported to the community in research conducted by WNMU's Early Childhood Programs. In addition to meeting a critical community need, expanded childcare and family support services are important tools in economic development. This has been recognized by the Coalition for Economic Progress in making childcare one of your priorities. This is an opportunity to act on this priority in a tangible and significant way. Some critical decisions must be made in order to make this project a reality by the fall of 2006. The project will require *active* partners working together. It is possible for this project to be completed *without* extensive demands on scarce local resources.

Funding Possibilities

Five potential sources of funding for construction and operation of a new facility have been identified:

1) *Earmarked federal funds (Construction)*

Concept papers describing the new project have been sent to Senators Bingaman and Domenici, and they have responded enthusiastically with promises of support. Senator Domenici's staffer (Chris Collins) explained that before the Senator can seek funds for the project in the next legislative budget session (winter 2004-05), we must have acquired land and obtained accurate cost estimates for the facility (preliminary architectural drawings). Mr. Jim Redford, who designed the Child Development Center at WNMU, has generously offered to donate his time in preparing preliminary drawings and cost estimates. With these things in place, Senator Domenici will make our project a high priority. Senator Bingaman's office (Sal Ceballos) has promised similar support. Earmarked funds would be for construction, furnishings and equipment, and landscaping (playground). We have told them we are looking for \$3 million.

2) *USDA Grants & Loans Program (Construction)*

The USDA offers up to \$1 million in grants and long term, low cost loans for the construction of childcare centers in rural communities. The maximum loan term is 40 years and requires a revenue bond as security. USDA determines what percentage of a proposal will be awarded as grant funds and how much as loans, depending on the economic status of the location (poverty level). **A local governmental entity with the power to issue revenue bonds must be willing to assume this responsibility.**

3) *Earmarked state funds (Program Support)*

We have also had extensive conversations with Senator Altamirano and Diane Hamilton. Next year's budget session is supposed to be devoted to early childhood education issues. The Governor has just signed legislation that would create 115 new universal preschool classrooms, suggesting the timing for this issue couldn't be better. We will need state funds for program support for the initial years of the project. The Community Childcare Center currently receives \$275,000 annually in state funding. It will be critically important to maintain this level of state funding for the next few years. The project will never be able to fully support itself on fees and will be particularly dependent on outside support for the first three years of operation.

4) *Early Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary Grants (Program Support)*

This year, up to 50 grants of \$1 million each will be awarded to governmentally designated Local Councils for the purpose of “developing, operating or enhancing voluntary early learning programs”. The grant period is 17 months starting in October, 2004. This funding could be used to create the expanded childcare and family support programs that would be housed in the new facility.

Application for this money requires local governments to 1) pass resolutions and 2) issue letters of designation, authorizing the Community Partnership for Children as the “Local Council” eligible to apply for these funds in behalf of the community. The deadline for this grant application is July 27. Designation letters must be received no later than July 19.

Prior to this deadline, the Partnership for Children must convene a meeting to approve the application and demonstrate that the Partnership represents major segments of the community. Good attendance at this meeting, demonstrating broad community representation, will be critical! The meeting has been set for July 15 at 9:00 AM in the Board Room of Silver Consolidated Schools, 2810 N. Swan in Silver City. The Partnership meeting will be held in conjunction with the regular meeting of the Grant County Inter-Agency Alliance, which will begin at 8:30.

5) *Corporate and Other Private Foundation Money (Program Support)*

Tony Trujillo of Phelps Dodge has agreed to help us with both state funding and applying for a grant from Phelps Dodge Foundation. Jearl Joslin, PD Manager of Human Resources and Community Relations, has also promised to help. Other private foundations, including Con Alma Health Foundation, can be approached for funding. Amounts available through these sources are likely to be smaller (50k) and usable only for programmatic aspects of the project—not for bricks and mortar.

Site for a New Community Childcare Center

A portion of the 7-acre parcel of state land on the west side of the 32nd St. By-pass, north of the Forest Service Building has emerged as the most promising location for a new facility. The 32nd St. site can be obtained through either a 99-year or five-year renewable lease from the State Land Office. Of the two, the five-year business lease is probably the better option. It would require only an application, including an appraisal and land survey. The 5-year lease application is non-competitive. If the State Land Office deems the use “beneficial,” the issuance of the lease would be almost automatic. These five-year leases are indefinitely renewable. In the unlikely event that the lease would be lost in the future, the new lessee would have to purchase any improvements to the land at market value, thus providing some protection on the investment. In the case of the 99-year lease, there must be a public auction of the land. The Land Office is aware of other interest in this property, and there is a substantial chance of losing the land in a bidding competition. The five-year lease, on the other hand, is essentially ours for the asking.

Based on the appraised value of adjacent land, SLO estimates the value at \$27,225/Acre. With playground and parking area, the new facility will need approximately 2 acres. The price of the lease would begin at 3% of the land value per year during the construction period and escalate to 7% of land value upon completion and occupancy. This calculation generates an annual cost of \$1,634 in the first two years, and \$3,811 per year thereafter. **A local government or non-profit organization must agree to partner with the Community Childcare Project to sign such a lease.**

The ELOA Proposal

The proposal for ELOA funding has several components that will go a long way toward addressing the childcare needs of Grant County, including:

- Expanding the existing Community Childcare Program to serve 150 children 6 weeks to five years of age, providing high quality early education and family support services to an additional 125 children.
- Making high quality early childhood education accessible to working families through scholarships and sliding scale fees.
- Improving the quality of early childhood programs through intensive professional development for early childhood educators and home providers
 - A contract with NM T.E.A.C.H., an outcome-based national organization that provides structures for a comprehensive sequenced program of early childhood professional development, will bring their services to Grant County, including a recruiter/ mentor and \$50,000 in stipends and scholarships to assist childcare professionals in upgrading their credentials.
 - Creating a qualified pool of paid substitutes that will enable staff of any childcare center or home provider to access the professional development programs.
 - An intensive professional development program for early childhood educators and staff of such agencies as Life Quest Early Intervention, Border Area Mental Health, El Refugio, First Born to enhance expertise in dealing with mental health issues of very young children and their families.
 - An expansion of the training and technical assistance program of La Familia Resource Center to offer community trainings on children who present challenging behavior and the inclusion of special needs children in childcare programs.
- Creating a new therapeutic childcare program for children exposed to abuse and neglect, serving infants and toddlers and their caregivers
- Instituting a Mobile Family Resource and Lending Library that will take toys, books, and other materials and technical assistance into remote rural communities in Grant County
- Creating new programs to support grandparents who are parenting grandchildren and to encourage the involvement of fathers with their young children