

## WNCSource CEO Report

December 8, 2022

### Change of Scope and Carryover Funds Approved

WNCSource is closing out 2022 with some more great news. The change of scope for the Head Start and Early Head Start grant has been approved. Also, \$651,587 in carryover funds from the last fiscal year have been approved. This will allow us to accomplish the following in 2023:

- Increase wages for teaching and other frontline staff significantly
- Continue to offer hiring and retention bonuses
- Keep up with other cost increases in supplies, food, rent and insurance
- Cover upfront costs for our new Columbus facility
- Attract and retain qualified staff

These are remarkable accomplishments. As soon as we were aware that that Office of Head Start was welcoming change of scope applications, we went into action. At the May Board meeting I explained the need for the change of scope and how we would use the carryover funds. Linda Carter, and Ibbby Whitten began working on data and budgets. Foundations for Families and Terri Bowman began writing the Change of Scope grants. The WNCSource Board approved the Change of Scope on July 14, 2022 and it was submitted on July, 22, 2022. We also submitted a Change of Scope for our Early Head Start expansion grant at the same time. We have not received approval for that yet. Speed was important, because we were one of the first in line, which helped us get a quick response.

WNCSource is a well-respected grant recipient in the Head Start community. Below is a letter from Lola Montgomery. She has been WNCSource's Head Start Program Specialist for the last several years. Her note tells you a lot about the great team at WNCSource.

*I'm so pleased that your enrollment reduction and carryover are approved!*

*I just spoke with Linda, and wanted to tell you, too, how much I appreciate the work y'all do.*

*Your organization is forward thinking, and project planning and program adjustments are data driven.*

*Your submissions include current data -- local, regional and national -- to support needs and justify budget requests.*

*Applications are clear, comprehensive and understandable, and response to requests for clarification or additional data is quick and accurate. (That rapid response is a personal boon, too, since budgets aren't my first language.)*

*I can't say I'm excited we'll have new 1303 applications forthcoming, but I have every assurance that projects for the recently donated site in an affordable housing community and updates of aging modular units will be equally well planned and executed.*

*Approval especially when reliant on availability of supplemental funding can seem to move at a glacial pace, but y'all have some substantial achievements to look back on this year.*

*Bravo, team, and happy Thanksgiving.*

*Lola Montgomery*

### **Winter Luncheon and Thank You for Your Participation**

WNCSource will have its first in person Winter Luncheon since 2019 at the Barn at The Highland Lake Inn. Lunch will start at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, December 20. We will recognize staff, Board members and community partners for their service this year.

I also want to thank the WNCSource Board for the support and participation at our recent training, and the Tebeau Street Children's Center event. It means a lot to our staff to see the Board involved in our progress. Strong Board support also impresses our community partners and funders.