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November 9, 2023

WNCSource is preparing to submit a Carry-Over Funds Request application for Grant #04HP000443. This is our Early Head Start Expansion grant that provides Early Head Start programs to 99 children in Henderson, Transylvania, and Rutherford counties.

The proposed Carry-Over request does not ask for additional funding from the Office of Head Start. The request is being made to allow WNCSource to retain previously awarded grant funds from the prior 2021-22 (Year 1) and 2022-23 (Year 2) program years that to date, are unobligated and have remained unspent. This includes \$1,001,537 in Year 1 funds and \$1,073,190 in Year 2 funds for a total of \$2,074,727 in available unobligated, unspent funding.

WNCSource would like to retain and re-purpose the \$2,074,727 to construct a permanent childcare facility in Rutherford County. Our current leased facility is simply too small with room for only two classrooms. Other factors that make this opportunity attractive include:

- WNCSource was recently given a one-acre buildable tract of land in Creekwood Meadows in Rutherford County owned by the Dogwood Health Trust and the Gateway Foundation.
- We can utilize the existing Columbus Children's Center design plans (with some modifications) to construct the new facility and reduce our project cost!
- Current project estimates for Columbus are approximately \$2.2 to \$2.4 million.
- We can use the \$2,074,727 of Federal Funds that are already in our budget to construct the building. It will be necessary to complete and submit a 1303 Facilities Application to cover any additional expenses prior to beginning construction. However, 1303 Facilities Applications using existing grant allocations typically move through the approval process at a much faster pace.

Approval by the WNCSource Board of Directors and the Policy Council is required to submit this Carry-Over Fund Request application. We respectfully request your input and approval in this matter.

Children Services Team

CHILDREN'S SERVICES • HOUSING • TRANSPORTATION • OLDER ADULT SERVICES

Working with communities and partners, WNCSource improves people's lives by creating pathways to self-reliance and healthier living

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