



General Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND GENERAL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, July 3, 2025

51 Winburn Way - Siskiyou Room - 11am

<https://zoom.us/j/94638199437>

I. Call to Order

1. Confirm quorum present
2. Approval of draft minutes of 6.5.25 meeting (see agenda packet)
3. Suggested additions to today's agenda
4. Brief announcements
 - A. Request to change standing meeting time

II. Public Forum

III. Continuation of Business from June meeting

1. Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program Applications
 - A. Summary of committee members' ratings of each application (Love)
 - B. Committee members discuss each application and weigh in regarding recommendations for each:
 1. Which applications the committee recommends funding, and;
 2. Amount of funding for each recommended application
2. Business engagement work plan - finalize questionnaire and plan (see agenda packet)
 - A. Businesses to be approached
 - B. Questions to be asked
3. Update chart about progress on the committee's goals (see agenda packet)

IV. New Business

1. Decide on day and time of future committee meetings

V. Adjournment to August 7 Meeting

1. Any needed follow-up on Business Engagement Work Plan
2. Discussion of progress on the committee's goals
3. Continue discussion of cultivating future funding
4. Committee members' suggestions of additional topics
5. Adjournment

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Kerrick Gooden at citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.6002 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



**ASHLAND GENERAL
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING
MINUTES
June 5, 2025**

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 11:00AM

These are draft minutes until approved by the committee.

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:05

Members present: Lisa Verner, Lynn Ransford, John Love, Jessica Therkelsen, Joanie Keller-Hand, Nancy Seward, Anne Sebanc

Also present: Council Liaison Dylan Bloom and Staff Liaison Kerrick Gooden

1. Confirm quorum present

Confirmed

2. Approval of draft minutes from 5.1.2025 (see agenda packet)

Verner moved to approve minutes. Motion seconded by Keller-Hand. All ayes. Motion passed

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

none

4. Brief announcements

Anne Sebanc was welcomed and introductions exchanged.

OCDC (Oregon Child Development Coalition) received funding for the collocation of childcare at the Sunstone Housing project.

The approved Biennial budget includes the requested \$235K for the Early Childhood Grant Program for the 2025-27 biennium.

II. Public Forum

none - no members of the public were present.

III. Time-Sensitive New Business

1. Review and finalize announcement of the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program for recommendation to Council (see agenda packet)

Changes from last year's program was discussed. Decisions and changes included:

- Dates and information throughout the document were updated to reflect the program for the next fiscal year, 2025-26.
- Program Funding: The committee decided to leave the first-year program offering as it was last year - 'up to \$135K'.
- Program Structure: The committee discussed and decided to leave final grant award approval with the City Manager following committee recommendation as it was last year, instead of requiring final Council approval.
- Eligibility: The committee discussed whether to require the provision of a full-day program, or to instead consider scoring this higher as a preference during review. The committee considered the important role of licensed home childcare programs in meeting the needs of infants and toddlers. The committee decided to add under **Eligibility: add a number 5: Preference will be given for programs striving to provide full-time 5-day-a-week care and those serving infants and/or toddlers.**
- Discussed and decided to change Southern Oregon Median Income to Jackson County Median Income - The eligibility chart will be updated with most current available numbers for this.

Seward moved to approve the changes as reviewed by the committee. Motion was seconded by Ransford. All Ayes. Motion passed.

2. Identify local providers to notify about the grant program application process and likely deadlines

The committee discussed providers that have expressed interest. The staff liaison will notify the committee when the program goes live, so that members can notify providers.

IV. Continuation of Business from May Meeting

1. Business engagement work plan - finalize questionnaire and plan (see agenda packet)

The committee discussed the questions to ask businesses and decided:

- Item a: only ask for the number of employees and strike b and c.

- Add to item f: add an extra question with a write-in option: What other assistance do you offer?
- Item g: good as-is.
- Add to item H: If someone else was willing to run a childcare program, would you be willing to have it onsite?

The committee discussed using this questionnaire for continuity with in-person interviews and/or as an online survey for the purpose of collecting data regarding the need for childcare as perceived by local businesses. The committee's final edits will be reviewed by the Legal department for approval to use.

- A. Businesses to be approached
 - B. Questions to be asked
 - C. Discuss timeline for this project
2. Update chart to reflect progress on the committee's short and longer term goals (see agenda packet)

This discussion was postponed until the July 3 meeting due to time constraints.

V. Adjournment to July 3 Meeting

1. Review and decide on grant program recipients and award amounts for recommendation to Council

Committee discussed hoping to review applications for the Affordable Childcare Grant Program and requested a zoom link for the July 3 meeting to maximize the likelihood of having a quorum to make funding decisions.

2. Finalize plan for interviewing local businesses regarding childcare needs
3. Continue discussion on cultivating future funding
4. Suggestions of other topics from committee members

none forthcoming

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm



2025 Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application Scoring Sheet Instructions

- 1) Each tab is labeled for each of the applicants. Please enter their full organization name in the yellow space at the top of the sheet. The one received on June 22 has been entered already.
- 2) For each applicant, enter your name in the yellow row under "Committee Member Scoring the Application"
- 3) In column D under "Category in Which Funding Is Requested," enter an "X" opposite the appropriate category or categories.
- 4) Record your score from 1 to 5 for each of the evaluation criteria by entering your numerical value in the yellow space in column C
- 5) If you intend to not give the applicant any points in one of the categories, please enter "0"
- 5) When completed, please save the document using this file name and add your last name at the end of the file name, before the .xlsx
- 6) Please send your completed scoring to **Citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov** and to **johnlove@mind.net**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of completing these ratings, please email johnlove@mind.net

Please have your ratings completed by the evening of Tuesday, July 1st.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

2025-2026 Early Childhood Affordability Grants Scoring Sheet

Grant Applicant Name:		Category in Which Funding Is Requested	
Mountain Star Preschool LLC		a. Sliding scale scholarships	X
Committee Member Scoring the Application:		b. Infrastructure investment	
		c. Staffing support	
GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA			
Strategic Priority	Enter your rating on a scale from least applicable (1) to most applicable (5)	Comments or Clarifications	
1) Does the applicant fully describe their program's purpose, rationale for funding request, and give a complete explanation of procedures for carrying out the proposed project?			
2) Is the application clear about what need the organization will address with its funding and how the City's investment will solve the need?			
3) Does the applicant organization have the demonstrated capacity to carry out their stated goal and meet their proposed outcomes?			
4) Is this organization clearly ready to proceed when funded, and is it likely to complete its proposed efforts within 12 months?			
5) Does the application include a liine-item budget that clearly explains all major budget items?			
6) If a scholarship application , is it clear how household's financial needs will be established?			
7) If an infrastructure project application , are the required quotes for the project included?			
8) If an infrastructure project application , is proof of site control provided? (e.g., deed, property tax statement, lease agreement, or approval of property owner if leasing/renting)?			
9) If application is for Staffing, Special Needs Programming, Behavioral Support Programming , is the proposal clear about number of staff to be hired, part-time/full-time, and number of children to be supported?			
10) Please give an overall rating as to whether the grant application proposal is clear and complete and deserves to be funded?			
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR APPLICATION		0	

2025-2026 Early Childhood Affordability Grants Scoring Sheet

Grant Applicant Name:		Category in Which Funding Is	
Chldren's World Montessori		a. Sliding scale scholarships	X
Committee Member Scoring the Application:		b. Infrastructure investment	
		c. Staffing support	
GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA			
Strategic Priority		Enter your rating on a scale from least applicable (1) to most applicable (5)	
1)	Does the applicant fully describe their program's purpose, rationale for funding request, and give a complete explanation of procedures for carrying out the proposed project?		
2)	Is the application clear about what need the organization will address with its funding and how the City's investment will solve the need?		
3)	Does the applicant organization have the demonstrated capacity to carry out their stated goal and meet their proposed outcomes?		
4)	Is this organization clearly ready to proceed when funded, and is it likely to complete its proposed efforts within 12 months?		
5)	Does the application include a liine-item budget that clearly explains all major budget items?		
6)	If a scholarship application , is it clear how household's financial needs will be established?		
7)	If an infrastructure project application , are the required quotes for the project included?		
8)	If an infrastructure project application , is proof of site control provided? (e.g., deed, property tax statement, lease agreement, or approval of property owner if leasing/renting)?		
9)	If application is for Staffing, Special Needs Programming, Behavioral Support Programming , is the proposal clear about number of staff to be hired, part-time/full-time, and number of children to be supported?		
10)	Please give an overall rating as to whether the grant application proposal is clear and complete and deserves to be funded?		
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR APPLICATION		0	

2025-2026 Early Childhood Affordability Grants Scoring Sheet

Grant Applicant Name:		Category in Which Funding Is	
Ashland Family YMCA		a. Sliding scale scholarships	X
Committee Member Scoring the Application:		b. Infrastructure investment	
		c. Staffing support	X
GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA			
Strategic Priority		Enter your rating on a scale from least applicable (1) to most applicable (5)	Comments or Clarifications
1)	Does the applicant fully describe their program's purpose, rationale for funding request, and give a complete explanation of procedures for carrying out the proposed project?		
2)	Is the application clear about what need the organization will address with its funding and how the City's investment will solve the need?		
3)	Does the applicant organization have the demonstrated capacity to carry out their stated goal and meet their proposed outcomes?		
4)	Is this organization clearly ready to proceed when funded, and is it likely to complete its proposed efforts within 12 months?		
5)	Does the application include a line-item budget that clearly explains all major budget items?		
6)	If a scholarship application , is it clear how household's financial needs will be established?		
7)	If an infrastructure project application , are the required quotes for the project included?		
8)	If an infrastructure project application , is proof of site control provided? (e.g., deed, property tax statement, lease agreement, or approval of property owner if leasing/renting)?		
9)	If application is for Staffing, Special Needs Programming, Behavioral Support Programming , is the proposal clear about number of staff to be hired, part-time/full-time, and number of children to be supported?		
10)	Please give an overall rating as to whether the grant application proposal is clear and complete and deserves to be funded?		
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR APPLICATION		0	

2025-2026 Early Childhood Affordability Grants Scoring Sheet

Grant Applicant Name:		Category in Which Funding Is	
Avery Street Montessori		a. Sliding scale scholarships	
Committee Member Scoring the Application:		b. Infrastructure investment	X
		c. Staffing support	
GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA			
Strategic Priority		Enter your rating on a scale from least applicable (1) to most applicable (5)	Comments or Clarifications
1)	Does the applicant fully describe their program's purpose, rationale for funding request, and give a complete explanation of procedures for carrying out the proposed project?		
2)	Is the application clear about what need the organization will address with its funding and how the City's investment will solve the need?		
3)	Does the applicant organization have the demonstrated capacity to carry out their stated goal and meet their proposed outcomes?		
4)	Is this organization clearly ready to proceed when funded, and is it likely to complete its proposed efforts within 12 months?		
5)	Does the application include a line-item budget that clearly explains all major budget items?		
6)	If a scholarship application , is it clear how household's financial needs will be established?		
7)	If an infrastructure project application , are the required quotes for the project included?		
8)	If an infrastructure project application , is proof of site control provided? (e.g., deed, property tax statement, lease agreement, or approval of property owner if leasing/renting)?		
9)	If application is for Staffing, Special Needs Programming, Behavioral Support Programming , is the proposal clear about number of staff to be hired, part-time/full-time, and number of children to be supported?		
10)	Please give an overall rating as to whether the grant application proposal is clear and complete and deserves to be funded?		
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR APPLICATION		0	

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

2025-2026 Early Childhood Affordability Grants Scoring

Grant Applicant Name:

ABC Montessori - Ella's Classroom

Committee Member Scoring the Application:

GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Strategic Priority

Does the applicant fully describe their program's purpose, rationale for funding request, and give a complete explanation of procedures for carrying out the proposed project?

Is the application clear about what need the organization will address with its funding and how the City's investment will solve the need?

Does the applicant organization have the demonstrated capacity to carry out their stated goal and meet their proposed outcomes?

Is this organization clearly ready to proceed when funded, and is it likely to complete its proposed efforts within 12 months?

Does the application include a line-item budget that clearly explains all major budget items?

If a **scholarship application**, is it clear how household's financial needs will be established?

If an **infrastructure project application**, are the required quotes for the project included?

If an **infrastructure project application**, is proof of site control provided? (e.g., deed, property tax statement, lease agreement, or approval of property owner if leasing/renting)?

If **application is for Staffing, Special Needs Programming, Behavioral Support Programming**, is the proposal clear about number of staff to be hired, part-time/full-time, and number of children to be supported?

Please give an overall rating as to whether the grant application proposal is clear and complete and deserves to be funded?

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS FOR APPLICATION

ng Sheet

[illegible]

0

**Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT WORK PLAN**

MORE DETAIL (fits into BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT WORK PLAN
outline Version 2-March 21, 2025):

Questions to ask businesses:

1. Are you (the business) impacted by childcare?
2. Does childcare impact your ability to retain employees? Does it impact absenteeism?
3. Do you offer “tuition” or to help with tuition for childcare for your employees? What other assistance do you offer?
4. Do you have room onsite for a childcare facility? If someone else was willing to run a childcare program, would you be willing to have it onsite?
5. Would you join a group of employers to provide or to subsidize childcare for your employees?
6. If an endowment were created to support/subsidize childcare slots in Ashland, would you contribute to it? Annually?
7. What else would you like to tell us about how businesses (your business) are impacted by childcare?
8. Have work schedules been altered and/or rearranged to accommodate an employee’s childcare needs?
9. How many employees do you have?

Questions to ask employees:

10. Demographic information
11. Do you use childcare? What type of childcare do you use? (center childcare facility, home-based childcare, babysitter/nanny, family member, other)
12. Has your attendance at work/performance been affected by childcare issues? What are the biggest challenges?

Businesses to contact:

Retail

- a. Paddington family of stores (owners: Pam & Kelly Jean Hammond and Joe Collins)
- b. TC Chevy: (owner: Alan DeBoer)
- c. Butler Ford:
- d. ACE Hardware: Tim Ringer (541) 482-3476
- e. Bi-Mart: Eric Chaddock (541) 535-1566
- f. Blue Marble: Jordan Willing, Owner and CEO
- g. Organic Alcohol Co: (541) 201-1050

- h. Rogue Credit Union:
- i. Evergreen Bank: Marsha Billeci, Branch Manager, mbilleci@evergreenfederal.bank
- j.

Education

- a. SOU: VP for Finance & Administration Dr Carson Howell? Human Resources AVP for DEI?
- b. Ashland School District: Dr Joseph Hattrick, Superintendent
- c.

Government

- a. City of Ashland: Resources Director, Molly Taylor
- b. United States Post Office
- c.

Food

- a. Market of Choice: owner & CEO Rick Wright
- b. Ashland Food Coop: Nick Hardy, GM
- c. Albertsons: Don Kennedy Store Director, (541) 482-6320
- d. Safeway: Malcolm (no last name) Store Manager (541) 482-7777

Health related

- a. Asante Community Hospital: Kristin Roy, SVP and Legal Counsel
- b. RiteAid:
- c. Ashland Drug:
- d. YMCA: Heidi Hill, CEO
- e.

Entertainment

- a. Oregon Shakespeare Festival:
- b.

Manufacturing

- a. Darex: David Bernard
- b. BioSkin: Scott Shumway, company president
- c. Scharffen Berger Chocolate (part of Harry & David but produces locally): Chris Spirko, General Manager

Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning

Progress on Short- and Longer-Term Goals

September 5, 2024

Suggested updates (in red) for discussion at June 5, 2025 committee meeting

Goal	Activities to Date	Possible Future Activities
1. Advocate at the state level for Preschool Promise slots to be made available to programs currently licensed and operating in Ashland. A traditional Preschool Promise class supports 18 children. Having 18 Preschool promise slots would be a significant asset to our community and help greatly in supporting Ashland working families. Preschool Promise supports families earning at or below 200% of the FPL with free early learning opportunities.	The committee has not done specific lobbying yet, but the Ashland Family YMCA has received state funding for ____ Preschool Promise slots.	Reach out to Children’s World and the other Ashland childcare providers to inform them about the process for applying for Promise Preschool funding.
2. Engage local businesses to assess their employees’ needs, and investigate potential partnerships	Committee members published “The Economics of Musical Chairs” in the local online Ashland.news, April 2024. Final version of article for Southern Oregon Business Journal approved at 4-3-25 meeting; City Council approved for distribution at May 6 Council meeting.	Prepare article for Southern Oregon Business Journal that would expand on the Ashland.news article. John spoke with founder/editor Jim Teece, and he’s eager to accept our submission. Aim for about 2,000 words (at least twice as long as the April article). John will bring a draft outline to the committee’s September 4 meeting.

Goal	Activities to Date	Possible Future Activities
	Article submitted to Southern Oregon Business Journal on 5/13/25.	Distribute article more widely. Interview local employers to assess the nature and extent of the impact of their employees having difficulties finding childcare they can afford.
3. Improve public awareness of early learning programs currently available in Ashland.	The team worked with a variety of partners, including SOESD, EQQUS Work Force Solutions, Business Oregon, SBDC, ODHS, DELC, and multiple local providers (see #4).	Continue reaching out to these partners as the committee expands its work. Also see #5. Are there specific things we can do?
4. Work with providers to ensure they are aware of grant opportunities and business development opportunities that support their long-term viability.	Committee chair Paula Hyatt reached out to all local, licensed providers (including YMCA, Children's World), Business Oregon, Asante, and local movers and shakers (including Peter Buckley, SOU President Richard Bailey, Cynthia Anderson) to ensure awareness of the city's Affordability Grant program announcement and the state's DELC/Business Oregon Childcare Infrastructure Grant opportunity in August/September 2024. In late March 2025, forwarded Business Oregon's 3-26-25 announcement of second round of Child Care Infrastructure Fund grants to YMCA, Children's World, SOU, Food Coop, Sunstone, and others.	Continue reaching out to all these providers and organizations as the committee learns about new grant- and business-development opportunities. Contact Ashland providers when the City announces the Affordability Grants application availability

Goal	Activities to Date	Possible Future Activities
5. Engage Ashland's Community Development department regarding land use for early learning programs and how we can best support providers looking to locate programs in our city.	Chair Hyatt and committee member Verner met with Sunstone, and Hyatt also facilitated a meeting between the Sunstone's ED and Sunny Spicer and her team at Oregon Center for Creative Learning.	Work with Community Development to get a "place at the table" in connection with the group involved in planning the Croman Mills housing development. Explore with them possibilities for including a childcare center in that development. Advocate for one that could (a) serve <u>all</u> the children, 0-5 years of age, who might reasonably be expected in the number of families who would reside in the new development and (b) be located convenient to RVTD's expected bus line. Also determine the agency/organization/business that could apply for a grant in the next round of Child Care Infrastructure Program funding, and support them in submitting an application.
6. Explore strategies for colocating childcare and affordable housing.	NA	Include colocation plans in the application coming out of #5 and meet with SOU President Bailey or his designee regarding the project they have in the works replacing an old dorm with senior housing to explore childcare colocation.
7. Are there other short-term goals we want to tackle?		

Goal	Activities to Date	Possible Future Activities
Longer-Term Goals		
1. Investigate, and support, development opportunities in infant and toddler care in Ashland.	Recommended that Children's World receive full funding requested for the city's Affordability Grant because of CW's offering of toddler care slots.	See short term goal #5.
2. Investigate, and support, development opportunities in care for children with special needs in Ashland.	Recommended that the Family YMCA receive full funding requested for the city's Affordability Grant because of its request for funding a part-time behavioral support specialist. (September 2023)	Advocate for the city to continue its Affordability Grant Program into the next biennium, and if possible, increase funding to reach more families enrolling children with special needs. With future grant funding available from the city, investigate additional funding opportunities.
3. Cultivate future funding.	Therkelsen and Love met with Kurt Hildebrand and Shasta Zieke of the Oregon Community Foundation to discuss options for endowment partnerships and donor-advised funds. Hildebrand attended the committee's May 1 meeting to discuss several possibilities. (Childcare is one of OCF's top priorities.)	Consider establishing a nonprofit organization to solicit donations and grants. Talk with OCF's Special Gifts Officer.