



General Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND GENERAL

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING AGENDA

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 10:30 AM

I. Call to Order

1. Confirmation of quorum present
2. Approval of draft minutes of the 4/2/2026 meeting (see agenda packet)
3. Suggested additions to today's agenda
4. Brief announcements

II. Public Forum

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Review City's Childcare Affordability Grants application (see agenda packet - Paula)
 1. Are any changes needed?
 2. Process for reaching out to potential applicants
2. Discussion of potential partnering with the Ashland Schools Foundation (Paula)
3. Appeal to the Ashland Planning Commission (see agenda packet - Lisa)
4. Business engagement plan
 1. Who are the key business leaders we should engage?
 2. What do we want to learn?
 3. What is our ask?
5. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland (Nancy)

IV. New Business

1. Potential partnering with the Ashland Community Health Foundation (John)

V. Anticipation of June 4, 2026 Meeting

1. Continue discussion of potential with the ASF or ACHF.
2. Planning Commission
3. Suggestions for other topics

VI. Adjournment





General Meeting Agenda

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including electronic attendance, 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
April 2, 2026**

Siskiyou Room – 51 Winburn Way – 10:30 AM

These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:33am.

Present were committee members John Love, Nancy Seward, Anne Sebanc, Joanie Keller-Hand, and Lisa Verner.

Also present was staff liaison Kerrick Gooden.

1. Confirmation of quorum present

Quorum reached at 10:40am

2. Approval of draft minutes of 3/5/26 meeting (see agenda packet)

Seward moved to approve the minutes. Sebanc seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion Passed.

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

no additions

4. Brief announcements

The committee discussed local provider engagement with [Business Oregon's CCIF grant program](#).

II. Public Forum

none

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Review edits needed for City's Childcare Affordability Grants application process (suggested edits in agenda packet).
 - a. Are there goals we would prioritize?
 - b. Process for reaching out to potential applicants

The committee discussed suggested edits to the program announcement as included in the agenda packet. Discussion included the difficulty in finding local median income data and reviewed Love's research and calculation of 200% of Jackson County median income (see attachment).

Love moved to approve changes included in the agenda packet with an updated 200% of Jackson County median income numbers as included in the minutes, and ask Gooden to send to the City Manager's Office to update the program. The motion was seconded by Keller-Hand. All in favor. The motion passed.

2. Brief update regarding potential partnering with the Ashland Schools Foundation

Love reported on his meeting with Erica Thompson, Executive Director of Ashland Schools Foundation (ASF). Thompson clarified that ASF's charge is to support K-12, which can only change with a change to its charter. Love reported that Hyatt will arrange to meet with School District Superintendent Joseph Hattrick, Deputy City Manager Rooklyn and key partners to explore this potential.

3. Business engagement work plan
 - a. Who are the key business leaders we should engage?
 - b. What do we want to learn?
 - c. What is our ask?

Nothing to report at this time

IV. New Business

1. Review the committee's charge; what do we still need to do? (see agenda packet)

The committee discussed its short and longer-term goals as included in the packet. Sebanc pointed out that the committee's original charge included strengthening ASD enrollment. The committee

considered evidence of declining local K-12 enrollment, that childcare needs for infants/toddlers may be mostly met through home-based programs, and discussed the benefits and challenges associated with the national trend of lower licensing requirements / standards. Discussion included recent State-mandated changes to allow childcare in all zones, and considered developing a recommendation to the Planning Commission regarding childcare use within the Ashland Mills (formerly Croman Mills) development.

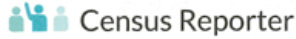
Verner agreed to draft a letter of recommendation to Staff and Planning Commission accordingly for committee consideration, and Seward agreed to work with Hyatt and Love to update the assessment of local childcare slots.

V. Anticipation of May 7, 2026 Meeting and Adjournment

1. Continue discussion of potential with the Ashland schools.

The committee discussed that:

- Hyatt will meet with Hattrick and Rooklyn regarding any potential to work with ASF
 - Therkelsen will develop a strategy to invite businesses to discuss local childcare needs
 - Verner will work up a draft letter of recommendation from the ad-hoc committee to Staff and Planning Commission
 - Seward will work on updating the snapshot of local childcare slots.
2. Business engagement
 3. Committee members' suggestions for other topics
 4. Adjournment



Search for places, tables, topics, or glossaries Search

Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2024 Inflation-adjusted Dollars) by Family Size

Table Map Distribution [Download data](#)

Table B19119 [Change](#)

ACS 2024 1-year

2024

Add data for more places below; visualize or download this data with controls at right.

Table universe: Families

Click a row to highlight

Selected geographies
Jackson County, OR

Column → [Jackson County, OR](#)

Add a geography

Find a place

Add all counties in ...

- [Oregon](#)
- [United States](#)

Divide Jackson County, OR into ...

- [county subdivisions](#)
- [census tracts](#)
- [block groups](#)
- [places](#)
- [congressional districts](#)
- [state houses \(upper\)](#)
- [state houses \(lower\)](#)
- [ZIP codes](#)
- [school districts \(elementary\)](#)
- [school districts \(secondary\)](#)
- [school districts \(unified\)](#)

| Column | Total | 2024 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Total: | \$93,001 ±\$5,513 | 2008 |
| 2-person families | \$86,567 ±\$8,419 | 173,134 |
| 3-person families | \$97,318 ±\$18,629 | 194,636 |
| 4-person families | \$129,588 ±\$38,789 | 259,176 |
| 5-person families | \$77,108 ±\$39,931 | 154,216 |
| 6-person families | \$123,574 ±\$32,803 | 247,158 |
| 7-or-more-person families | \$142,818 ±\$72,104 | 285,636 |

Citation: U.S. Census Bureau (2024). *Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2024 Inflation-adjusted Dollars)*



Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program

The City of Ashland is accepting grant applications for the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program for the 2025/2026 fiscal year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

6 7 6 7

Purpose

Ashland is an early learning and childcare desert, and the City Council has developed this program with the express purpose of increasing affordability and access to quality early learning and childcare programs for the benefit of working families.

The Grant Program's Goals Are to:

- Address Ashland's need for expanded early childhood care services
- Respond to households seeking affordability & financial stability
- Attract and retain a local workforce through enhanced quality of life and affordability
- Reinforce & propel kindergarten readiness in collaboration with partners
- Support economic development in Ashland
- *support childcare/early learning providers to enhance their programs in ways that create greater sustainability.*

Program Funding:

Up to ~~\$135,000~~ *100,000* will be available for distribution under the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program.

Additionally, the Ashland City Council has authorized funding only through the 2025/27 Biennium.

Funding in future years is not guaranteed.

Program Structure:

1. Program providers may apply for the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program funding in any of the following categories: *one or more*
 - a. Sliding Scale Scholarships
 - b. Infrastructure Investment
 - c. Staffing Support, Special Needs Integrated Programming, and/or Behavioral Support.
2. Applications are received and reviewed by the Affordable Childcare and Early Learning Ad Hoc Committee and the City of Ashland Finance Department.
3. Upon completion of its review, the committee makes award recommendations.
4. Recommendations are presented to the City Manager for final approval of grant awards.
5. Each provider/grant recipient reports ~~quarterly~~ *semi-annually* on the progress toward grant award goals as outlined under "Reporting" below.

requirements" in sections A4, B6, and C2.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for Early Childhood Affordability Grant Funding, childcare providers must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an active childcare license IN GOOD STANDING with the Child Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the State of Oregon's Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC).
2. Be a legal entity currently registered to do business in the State of Oregon.
3. Be located within Ashland City limits and provide programming within the City of Ashland.
4. Carry liability insurance as follows:
 - a. Commercial General Liability, Amount \$2M Per Occurrence / Aggregate \$3M with the City listed as an additional insured.
 - b. For those transporting children: Commercial Auto Liability, Amount \$2M Per Occurrence.
 - c. Sexual Abuse/Molestation Liability Insurance, Amount \$1M Per Occurrence / Aggregate \$2M.
 - d. An applicant may submit a letter from an insurance provider stating that, if awarded the grant, the childcare provider will obtain the necessary insurance levels.
5. Preference will be given to programs striving to provide full-time, 5-day-a-week care and those serving infants and/or toddlers.
6. Providers awarded the grant will be required to provide Abuse Prevention Training for all childcare provider staff. If the provider does not already have training in place, the City will provide a reference to an approved training course.

Instructions for Completing All Grant Applications

A Complete Application Includes:

1. The "City of Ashland Early Childhood Affordability Grant Application," which includes a description of the program's purpose, rationale for the funding request, complete explanation of procedures to be followed in carrying out the proposed project, and line-item budget with explanation for all major budget items.
2. Documentation of an active childcare license with the State of Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), Child Care Licensing Division (CCLD).
3. Proof of insurance commensurate with the coverage levels above.
4. Documentation of the organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.).
5. Pricing and rate information.
 - a. Note – if awarded grant funding, a provider may not increase their agreed rates to the households participating in the scholarship program for the duration of the award period. *charged*

6. Documentation of non-profit status, if applicable.

Additional Instructions the Grant Application

A. Grant Funds for Sliding Scale Scholarships

1. Fully describe your project, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need.
2. Describe how you will work with families in your program, and applying to your program to assess need and award scholarships to qualified households.
 - a. The city will not assess individual households. This is the responsibility of the program provider.
 - b. Households receive affordability scholarships through June 2026.
 - i. The Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program serves households at or below 200% of the Jackson County Median Income.

| Household Size | 200% of Jackson County Median Income |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | \$158,526 |
| 3 | \$192,344 |
| 4 | \$199,416 |
| 5 | \$168,758 |
| 6 | \$209,862 |
| 7 or more | \$295,800 |

3. Scholarships must be awarded according to the following criteria:
 - a. Scholarship recipient is an Ashland resident, or an employee of an Ashland based business.
 - b. Scholarship recipients ^{children are} are between the ages of 0 and 5 years, excluding children enrolled in kindergarten.
 - c. Scholarship recipients demonstrate a financial need.
 - i. Financial need is defined as a household earning at or below 200% of the Jackson County Median Income.
 - d. Financial needs must be established by the household's most recent W-2, or pay stub, and verified by the early learning service provider.
4. Reporting requirements:

- Semi-annual*
- a. All Early Childhood Affordability Grant recipients must provide ~~quarterly~~ reporting to the City of Ashland. Reporting requirements are necessary to ensure appropriate use of funds, evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program, and assess results for future planning.
 - b. Provide a summary narrative of scholarship work completed, including:
 - i. Total number of scholarships awarded, and number of families served.
 - ii. Attendance of scholarship recipients (number attending 90% of the time, 75% of the time, less than 50% of program time).
 - iii. Average scholarship award value, and scholarship award value range (smallest vs. largest scholarship).
 - iv. Total enrollment ~~without~~ ^{before} the Early Childhood Affordability Grant dollars versus total enrollment with the grant dollars. ^{were awarded}
 - v. Current waitlist count, if any.
 - c. Provide a revenue and expenditure statement, or profit and loss statement, demonstrating the cashflow of grant dollars.
 - d. If applicable, indicate if the Early Childhood Affordability Grant dollars supporting scholarships enabled your program to use other monies for investment in quality of service, curriculum, educators, and/or infrastructure.

B. Grant Funds for Infrastructure Projects:

1. Fully describe your project, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need.
2. For projects between \$0 and \$24,999 Include two quotes. If the project is between \$25,000 and \$150,000, then provide three quotes. If three quotes are not reasonably available, fewer will suffice, but the applicant shall make a written record of the effort made to obtain those quotes or proposals.
3. Provide proof of site control – for example deed, property tax statement, lease agreement or a long-term rental agreement.
4. If renting or leasing, provide documentation of approval of the property owner.
5. Give your complete schedule for installation and performance to schedule milestones.
6. Reporting requirements:

Semi-annual

 - a. All Early Childhood Affordability Grant recipients must provide ~~quarterly~~ reporting to the City of Ashland. Reporting requirements are necessary to ensure appropriate use of funds, evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program, and assess results for future planning.
 - b. Provide a summary narrative of infrastructure work completed, including:
 - i. Copies of permits required for installation, if required (example, fencing for a play area)

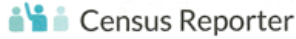
- ii. Provide a revenue and expenditure statement, or profit and loss statement, demonstrating the cashflow of grant dollars.
- c. Upon completion, provide an inspection report if appropriate, or photo of the completed installation.

C. Grant Funds for Staffing, Special Needs Inclusive Programming, and/or Behavioral Support Programming:

1. Fully describe your project, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need. Include the following:
 - a. Number of staff to be hired.
 - b. Indicate the number expected to be part-time and full-time, part-year and full-year.
 - c. Indicate the number of children to be supported by the grant funds.
2. Reporting requirements:
 - a. All Early Childhood Affordability Grant recipients must provide ~~quarterly~~ ^{Semi-annual} reporting to the City of Ashland. Reporting requirements are necessary to ensure appropriate use of funds, evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program, and assess results for future planning.
 - b. Provide a summary narrative of what work was completed, including information about your program capacity and/or service impact of additional staff on programming offered.
 - c. Provide a revenue and expenditure statement, or profit and loss statement, demonstrating the cashflow of grant dollars.

Final Note: Underused funding shall be subject to recapture by the City of Ashland and may be re-awarded to other programs or held in the General Fund for investment, as recommended by the Affordable Childcare and Early Learning Ad Hoc Committee.

Providers may be required to comply with Ashland's living wage requirement. According to Ashland Municipal Code, if the amount of the grant is \$24,050.68 or more, Consultant is required to comply with Chapter 3.12 of the Ashland Municipal Code by paying a living wage, as defined in that chapter, to all employees performing Work under the grant agreement and to any Subcontractor who performs 50% or more of the Work under the grant agreement.



Search for places, tables, topics, or glossaries Search

Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2024 Inflation-adjusted Dollars) by Family Size

Table Map Distribution [Download data](#)

Table B19119 [Change](#)

ACS 2024 1-year

2024

Add data for more places below; visualize or download this data with controls at right.

Table universe: Families

Click a row to highlight

Selected geographies
Jackson County, OR

Column → [Jackson County, OR](#)

Add a geography

Find a place

Add all counties in ...

- [Oregon](#)
- [United States](#)

Divide Jackson County, OR into ...

- [county subdivisions](#)
- [census tracts](#)
- [block groups](#)
- [places](#)
- [congressional districts](#)
- [state houses \(upper\)](#)
- [state houses \(lower\)](#)
- [ZIP codes](#)
- [school districts \(elementary\)](#)
- [school districts \(secondary\)](#)
- [school districts \(unified\)](#)

| Column | Total | 2-person families | 3-person families | 4-person families | 5-person families | 6-person families | 7-or-more-person families |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | \$93,001 ±\$5,513 | \$86,567 ±\$8,419 | \$97,318 ±\$18,629 | \$129,588 ±\$38,789 | \$77,108 ±\$39,931 | \$123,574 ±\$32,803 | \$142,818 ±\$72,104 |
| | 2008 | 173,134 | 194,636 | 259,176 | 154,216 | 247,158 | 285,636 |

Citation: U.S. Census Bureau (2024). *Median Family Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2024 Inflation-adjusted Dollars)*

May 2, 2026

DRAFT 2

City of Ashland Planning Commission
c/o City of Ashland Community Development
51 Winburn Way
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Dear Planning Commission members,

On behalf of the City of Ashland's Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning, I am writing to ask that you consider childcare/early learning opportunities when you are reviewing and approving/recommending new development for the City. Childcare is an economic development tool that is critical to our success as a city.

The Committee was formed in 2023 to address the childcare desert that is in Ashland. This means that there are fewer childcare slots than children whose families would like to use them. With the new state regulations allowing for childcare uses in all zones (except industrial?), we believe the Planning Commission has a great opportunity to help alleviate this lack of brick-and-mortar facilities.

We ask that you discuss the following questions with applicants who come before you in a public hearing or other review session:

1. Have you considered including space for a childcare facility within your development?
2. How does your project add to livability in Ashland, including having childcare facilities available to the community?
- 3.

These questions are applicable for projects in Commercial and Employment zones in addition to being most appropriate for residential projects. More childcare openings across the city will help employers gain employees, will help employees continue to hold down and perform well in their jobs, and will strengthen the economic base of Ashland.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

John Love, Chair
City of Ashland Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning