

Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties

Funding & Resources Work Group Meeting Minutes

MEETING COMMENCED	8:15am, March 22, 2016 Linn-Benton Community College Luckiamute Center, Albany
MEETING CALLED BY	Kristi May
THWORK GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT	Paula Grace, Wendy McKenna, Mary McKay, Tatiana Dierwechter
VERSION	Final

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION ITEM	Review of Hub Funding
	We have a large influx of funding at this time, and we want to come up with some strategies to use our funds in a way that meets local needs. Some of these funds are “use it or lose it”, and we don’t want to leave money on the table.
	Coordination Funds – monthly funding from the State. Once they are in our accounts, they are ours to use. These funds align to all of the metrics that start with a “1”.
	Great Start Funds – These funds align to all of the metrics that start with a “2”. These funds are done on a reimbursement basis. The same with the school readiness funds. Partners request reimbursement after they have provided the service.
	Title IV-B2 Funds – These funds align with metrics that start with a “3”. Reimbursement funds.
	All of these three types of funding are “use it or lose it” funds. June 30, 2017 is our deadline.
	Family Stability Funds – These funds align with metrics that start with a “3”, Reimbursement funds. These are state general fund dollars.
	Focus Network Funds – Deadline is June 30, 2017, and we were just awarded a second network. Specific as to who we can partner with. Must have a QI specialist on staff, and CCR&R’s are the only ones locally who have a QI specialist. Funds are to be used to help providers get star ratings and improve their programs.
	Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation – Funds have been contracted with our 12 school districts, and handed out in an equitable method that they all agreed to. We will be preparing a summary of what each of those projects is at the next Work Group Meeting, and we’ll be making that available.
	We have also been able to define “Hot Spot” as it relates to our region given the state’s definition doesn’t capture true need counties that contain rural and urban areas. Their formula specifically utilizes population density, and that doesn’t work well given our Hub demographics.
	We will be using Kindergarten Assessments, Free and Reduced lunch rates, and 3 rd grade reading scores to help us create a data driven decision for our funding choices.
	We’re giving the state a lot of feedback about the data that we are receiving from them, and they have been responsive to our comments and has asked to join our Data & Evaluation Work Group to get a better feel for how the data he is producing is being used.
	The 18-Month Hub Budget outlines reimbursement grants, school readiness funds, Family Connections, contains \$60,000 that is being reallocated out to the general funding because we received the Focused Network Grant, so we now have approximately \$200,000 in Focus Network Funding.
	Resource Allocation – “Core Funding” is meant to support our work plan. We will have another annual work plan in this biennium, and we need to remember to save some funds for that. We want to have funding available for the Governing Board to allocate as needs emerge, “responsive funding”. “Innovative Funding” is for the good ideas that come to us on a local level and if we fund them, they can be replicated

other areas.

Core Funding – all funding streams, activities on the work plan and strategic plan, sole source procurement or RFA if there are multiple vendors. (We will need to be cautious in our use of “sole source procurement” because we don’t want to exclude any of our partners who might have capabilities that are we not aware of.)

Responsive Funding – we have Coordination Funds from last year that rolled over, and there is no expiration date on using them, we set aside some of these funds for innovation funding. Do we want to set aside a specific amount for this use? People come and make presentations to the Board about needs that they have, and we want the Board to have some money to work with. Must meet a Hub indicator, and there are some state requirements that must be considered. We want to make sure, with these funds, that high quality services that are currently serving children are not lost for lack of funding.

When funding requests come in, maybe a form could be created that we use to determine what funding this request falls under. This committee (or the Hub Staff) could review the funding request and decide which funding pool to put this need under. THEN, we could request a letter of intent, which could be taken to the Board for final approval/denial.

We also want to make sure that people are kept aware of what is happening with their requests, so that people aren’t left hanging.

How do we spread the word about potential funding without creating competition? We want to let our partners know that there is money available, and we want them to tell us what they can do with it.

Do we set a limit of how much we are prepared to fund? A cap? What if we get the perfect project, something that really needs to be done, and our new “cap” will keep it from being funded? How often will we review the letters of intent and set up a cycle of RFAs? We could set up something like, every three months a new cycle would begin and new projects will be funded.

We need to get our innovation funds spent down as soon as possible, since we only have a year until the end of the budget period. We could set up year-long projects, release the letter of interest and get the RFA process going. We could have all of this in place by July 1, 2016, and have the budget period through June 1, 2017. We could use the responsive funding for a monthly funding of projects that are more timely.

We might need another committee to review the responsive funding letters of intent that come in. They could review the letters of intent, and then they make the recommendation of whether or not it should be taken to the Governing Board.

An additional issue is that the State set-up an annual work plan for the Hubs, but we have biennium funding, and the two things don’t line up. We will need to watch our upcoming metrics to make sure that they align with the contracts we currently have running.

There are “unknowns” about how many projects will be submitted and what kind of emerging funding needs are out there. We need to be flexible!

We have \$369,000 (roughly) of unallocated funds. We could get our partners moving along with their contracts, and then in January, amend their contracts with additional funds, to make sure that all of our funding is spent down before the end of the biennium period. Let’s us be strategic and gives us a time buffer.

We could also require that letters of intent be from a partnership of agencies, from at least two different Sectors. We aren’t there yet, but down the road that could be an incentive for our partners for more collaboration.

We need to set-aside some funding for the January 1, 2017-June 30, 2017 period, and we’re thinking about 15-20%. Those funds would be distributed to the partners that are making progress on their projects. Projects could be funded for 12 months, and some would receive additional funding, depending on the scope of the Project. We also have some on-going projects that might need to receive additional funding, and they could be part of the RFA process, if they wanted to continue funding.

CONCLUSIONS

We are proposing that the Coordination Funding (approximately \$171,000) be left as a reserve, and as our responsive funds for emerging needs.

We are proposing that the Hub release an RFA for all remaining unallocated funds with contracts to begin July 1st, 2016 with services concluding on June 30, 2017. All existing contracted partners with a contract end date of June 30, 2016 would be eligible to participate in this RFA process. The Funding & Resources workgroup would be repurposed from its original intent to be the application review committee for the RFA process and make recommendations to the Board.

If additional activities are identified as needing funded on the 2017 work plan we will have the flexibility to

use responsive funds to support those activities.

NEXT MEETING	TBD
After the Governing Board has approved our proposals, a meeting will be set-up.	
MEETING ADJOURNED	10:06am