

Child Care Grants

December 2001

BACKGROUND

The 2001 Legislature provided \$150,000 in state funds for child care grants for the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to distribute through competitive application to public baccalaureate institutions in the 2001-2003 biennium. A separate pool of funds was provided for community and technical colleges.

Applications for matching grants for the 2001-2003 biennium were due to the HECB on October 15, 2001. The \$150,000 that is provided for these grants is to be divided equally in each of the two fiscal years at \$75,000 per fiscal year. No single institution may receive more than half the funds appropriated for this program.

The Board approved at its October 30 meeting a grant in the amount of \$69,000 for Central Washington University for a child care grant proposal. This action left \$81,000 of the \$150,000 appropriation remaining, with two institutions in the process of revising their proposals. In addition, the amount of \$628.84 remains unexpended from appropriations for child care grants in the 1999-2001 biennium. The Board has received revised proposals from Washington State University (WSU) and The Evergreen State College (TESC).

HECB staff have reviewed these revised proposals and discussed them with the members of the review committee representing the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children, the Child Care Coordinating Committee, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network. The review committee recommends the following two awards.

Washington State University/Pullman \$39,564

The review committee recommends that the Board authorize \$39,564 in grant funds (\$9,607 in FY 2002 and \$29,957 in FY 2003) to support the Washington State University proposal to enhance evening child care services and continue its parent co-operative program.

WSU currently provides an on-campus evening child care program for 124 registered children whose parents attend evening labs and classes. This drop-in evening program is currently the only one available in the community. The state grant will allow WSU to continue this program in fiscal year 2003 and keep parent fees affordable for students.

In addition, during fiscal year 2001, WSU operated a parent cooperative program in which student parents could work at the Children's Center in exchange for a reduction of their child care costs. This opportunity benefits parents both financially and through the training and experience they gain working in a supervised child care setting. Grant funds will allow this

parent cooperative program to be re-started in January 2002 and continue throughout the next academic year (ending May 2003). Due to limited resources, the parent co-operative program is funded at less than the requested level in fiscal year 2003.

The Evergreen State College**\$42,064.84**

The review committee recommends that the Board authorize \$42,064.84 in grant funds (\$31,521.84 in FY 2002 and \$10,543 in FY 2003) to support the proposal by The Evergreen State College to enhance student-teacher training, provide parent-education materials, and provide furnishings for both a parent support area and for a planned expansion to the child development center.

The grant will provide 11 hours per quarter of additional training to student teacher aides. In addition, the school will purchase books, videos, materials and a TV/VCR to establish a parent training and study area. The college plans to open the addition in winter quarter of 2003, and it will double the capacity of the child care program. The college requests grant funding for furniture, play area and activity equipment, furnishings for the toddler and pre-school rooms, and student-parent desks and chairs. Since the addition is not yet under construction, the grant will stipulate that purchase of the requested equipment be funded to coincide with construction progress.

NEXT STEPS

Following the Board's action, interagency agreements between the HECB and Washington State University and The Evergreen State College will be executed, spelling out the terms under which the grants are provided, including reporting requirements. The HECB executive director and the appropriate representative of the universities will sign the agreements.

Fiscal year 2003 funds for all three approved child care grants will become available when the grantee institutions satisfactorily complete first-year progress reports.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-40

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has been directed by the Legislature and Governor to administer grants totaling \$150,000 for the 2001-2003 biennium to encourage programs providing high quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students attending public baccalaureate institutions; and

WHEREAS, The amount of \$628.84 remains unexpended from appropriations made for child care grants during the 1999-2001 biennium, and this amount may be added to the current appropriation level for distribution to grantees; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board staff prepared and circulated a Request for Proposals to all the public baccalaureate institutions, and invited proposals from each institution; and

WHEREAS, Grant requests were received from three institutions: Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College, and Washington State University; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board staff and external experts representing child care organizations evaluated the grant proposals and recommended funding in the amount of \$69,000 to Central Washington University, and continuing the review of grant proposals for the remaining funds available; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a grant totaling \$69,000 for Central Washington University at its meeting October 30, 2001, leaving the amount of \$81,628.84 available for award; and

WHEREAS, Revised grant requests were received from The Evergreen State College and Washington State University, and these revised requests addressed the questions and comments of HECB staff and the external experts on the review committee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board approves a grant to Washington State University in the amount of \$39,564, and a grant to The Evergreen State College in the amount of \$42,064.84; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That HECB staff is directed to release the funding upon the execution by the executive director of interagency agreements spelling out the terms of the grant process.

Adopted:

December 13, 2001

Attest:

Bob Craves, Chair

Gay Selby, Vice Chair