



**City Council Meeting**  
**Public Comments**  
**May 24, 2023**

Email [lizmarysmith2001@gmail.com](mailto:lizmarysmith2001@gmail.com)

Council Meeting Date 5.24.2023

Item # 6

First and Last Name Elizabeth Smith

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

As a new mother, I am compelled to request that childcare is considered in Escondido for all funding decisions. This is a crucial issue that demands our attention and immediate action. Finding quality care for my child has been an incredibly stressful and overwhelming experience, and I know that I am not alone in facing these challenges.

Statistics reveal a pressing need for increased funding for childcare in our city. According to recent data, Escondido has experienced a significant increase in the number of working parents, resulting in a higher demand for reliable and affordable childcare options. Unfortunately, the current availability of quality childcare facilities falls far short of meeting this growing demand. This imbalance places an enormous burden on parents, often forcing them to make difficult choices between their careers and their children's well-being.

By investing in resources and support to help new parents navigate the complex child care system, we can alleviate the immense stress and anxiety that many families experience. Increased funding would enable us to develop comprehensive programs that offer guidance, assistance, and streamlined access to reliable child care services. By doing so, we empower parents to make informed decisions and provide the best care possible for their children.

Furthermore, investing in childcare is not only a matter of personal well-being but also an investment in the future of our community. High-quality early childhood education has been shown to have a lasting positive impact on children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. By prioritizing and expanding funding for childcare, we are giving our children a strong foundation for success and ensuring that they have the opportunity to thrive in their future endeavors.

Therefore, I urge the Council to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to supporting families and children in our city by increasing funding for childcare. Let us seize this opportunity to create a community where parents can confidently pursue their careers, knowing that their children are receiving the care they deserve. By doing so, we not only enhance the well-being of families but also foster a thriving and prosperous city for generations to come.

Thank you for considering the needs of new parents like myself and for recognizing the critical importance of investing in high-quality childcare. Together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our children and contribute to the brighter future of Escondido.

Submitted on Monday, May 22, 2023 - 12:10pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [browncarin416@myyahoo.com](mailto:browncarin416@myyahoo.com)

Council Meeting Date 05/24/2023

Item # 6

Subject

Position No Position

First and Last Name Karin Brown

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I'm Karin, and I'm writing to make a public comment on funding portion of the meeting agenda. I'm a mother of two young children, and I saw in a Facebook group an announcement for this meeting. I've been struggling to find childcare that doesn't eat up a majority of my income for almost a year now, and I was really hoping there would be news of a childcare program being funded at this meeting. I am writing to urge you to prioritize funding for childcare programs in the community. As you are well aware, affordable and accessible childcare is essential for families to thrive, and yet it remains out of reach for far too many parents.

Especially with everything going on these days, it's been so tough for so many moms and dads to balance work and childcare responsibilities. I can't tell you how many times I've had to scramble to find a last-minute babysitter or call in sick because I couldn't find anyone to watch the kids, and can say same for all of my friends that have kids.

But it's not just about making things easier for parents (although that would be amazing). It's also about supporting our kids and their development. Good quality childcare programs can help our little ones learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment, and give them the skills they need to succeed later on in life. I know that quality has been my top priority on my childcare search, and something that has made it difficult to find childcare providers I feel comfortable with. I urge you to consider what the community needs when making these funding decisions. It would make such a huge difference to moms like me who are just trying to do our best for our families.

Submitted on Monday, May 22, 2023 - 12:54pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [lindadaviswrites@outlook.com](mailto:lindadaviswrites@outlook.com)

Council Meeting Date May 24

Item # 6

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Linda Davis

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

As a single mother, I am frustrated and overwhelmed by the lack of affordable and accessible child care in our city. Trying to balance work and parenting without adequate child care is an impossible task, and I know I am not alone in this struggle. I urge the Council to take immediate action to invest in initiatives and programs that will make child care more affordable and accessible for families like mine. The stress and uncertainty of not being able to find quality child care is taking a toll on our families.

Thank you for your time.

Submitted on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - 9:13am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [maryjunebrown088@gmail.com](mailto:maryjunebrown088@gmail.com)

Council Meeting Date 5/23/2023

Item # 6

Subject CDBG 2023-24 - Funding for Child Care

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Mary Brown

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I believe it is crucial to participate in these meetings as I have noticed a recurring pattern in the allocation of funds year after year, predominantly favoring a select few organizations for similar initiatives.

While acknowledging the value of these programs, I urge you to consider broadening the scope of funding to support essential and underserved sectors such as child care. The availability of high-quality child care services has a profound impact on families and communities alike. It not only supports working parents by allowing them to contribute to the economy but also lays a strong foundation for early childhood education and development.

Investing in child care initiatives would greatly benefit our community by facilitating access to affordable, safe, and nurturing environments for our children. By providing financial support to organizations dedicated to expanding child care services, we can ensure that families receive the assistance they need while fostering the healthy growth and development of our youngest members.

I sincerely hope you will consider this request and strive for a more equitable distribution of funds, supporting a diverse range of initiatives that address the varied needs of our community. Thank you for your attention and for considering the importance of investing in child care initiatives.

Submitted on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - 11:23am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [sbenson@elderhelpofsandiego.org](mailto:sbenson@elderhelpofsandiego.org)

Council Meeting Date 5/24/2023

Item # 6

Subject Re: Item 6 PLEASE AFFIRM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ("CDBG")

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Sarah Benson

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am writing on behalf of ElderHelp of San Diego, a local nonprofit that supports seniors so they may age with dignity in their own homes, to encourage approval of the funding priorities for CDBG activities for FY 2023-24. Older adults are at the center of our housing crisis. Rents are far outpacing average fixed income levels. Seniors living on low and fixed incomes are forced to choose between paying rent, eating, or buying medications. Section 8 waitlists are too long, while housing developments are too few and take years for approval and build out. It's no surprise that older adults are the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness in San Diego County — 1 of 4 of San Diego's homeless adults are over the age of 55. We need more creative solutions and involvement from community partners to help seniors navigate such housing challenges. Please approve the staff recommendation for the funding priorities for the upcoming fiscal year so that community partners can help maximize programs that impact seniors in Escondido. Thank you, Sarah Benson, Director, San Diego North, ElderHelp

Dear City Councilmembers:

My name is Jessa Santangelo, and I am the VP of Business Development with WeeCare. We are so excited about the opportunity to partner with the City of Escondido and appreciate this opportunity to introduce innovative programming to the community. WeeCare is the largest and fastest-growing childcare network in the nation, partnering with municipalities at all levels of government to address the childcare crisis at the local level. Currently, in the City of Escondido, there is an estimated childcare capacity gap of over 5,000 childcare slots. Luckily, there are approximately 61 childcare providers in need of microenterprise support that would qualify for the BOOST program to help increase the overall capacity in the City and service the excess population of children.

WeeCare started working with various governmental agencies to help bridge the gap in communities where childcare resources are scarce by offering programs that boost local businesses, ensure early childhood development, help combat homelessness, and even help communities bounce back from the devastating aftermath of COVID-19. Some of our partners include the State of California, the City of Los Angeles, Cathedral City, and even the U.S. Department of Defense. We are a trusted and proven partner, comfortable with all funding levels.

The BOOST program gives providers access to a daycare management software, a tool that enables them to run their business from the palm of their hand. This is not simple business coaching; this is effectively digitizing their entire operation. WeeCare utilizes a mobile app and software to support families and providers through technology, reducing administrative work through automation and improving marketing efforts to reach families, among other valuable technological capabilities. Through BOOST, providers will have access to a centralized network of parents and potential clients, will be matched with families in minutes using robust matching algorithms, have access to a library of curriculum to save time creating lesson plans, have photo and video communication with parents, track financial records using accurate digital attendance and tuition payment processing, and so much more.

As you know, childcare can be a significant barrier to entry into the workforce, especially for women. Many working parents struggle to balance their job responsibilities with the demands of caring for their children, and in the absence of affordable and quality care options, many parents are often forced to choose between working and staying home. Addressing these challenges is critical to ensuring that all individuals in the City of Escondido have the opportunity to participate in the workforce and reach their full economic potential. This includes promoting policies that support working families and prioritize childcare providers, who are the foundation of a healthy workforce.

We have established relationships with various local childcare providers in the community and have let them know we are working on acquiring grant funding that will assist many of them in stabilizing and even expanding their operations, increasing the total childcare capacity in the City. They are all very excited to have the opportunity to participate in this innovative use of public funding.

So we thank you for this tremendous opportunity to support this amazing community of people who have quietly dedicated their lives to improving the lives of those around them. Thank you!

Best,

Jessa Santangelo

## Item #6

Legal Aid Society of San Diego has provided fair housing services to residents of Escondido for many years and supports continued CDBG funding for those efforts. Legal Aid's fair housing team provides direct fair housing services to clients (ranging from referrals, advice, representation in negotiations, and full scope representation in court and administrative proceedings). Legal Aid also provides broad outreach efforts to educate the public about their fair housing rights and obligations. Finally, our testing program investigates and identifies otherwise unknown instances of discrimination. These critical services are supported by CDBG and support our work toward overcoming obstacles faced by the community in obtaining and retaining housing.

Amalea Romero (she/her)

Senior Attorney, Fair Housing