



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Ward 3
Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6
Councilor Ali Dieng, Ward 7

Thursday, June 6th, 2019
5:30 – 7:00 PM
City Hall – Conference Room 12

Draft Agenda

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
2. Public Forum (10 minutes)
3. Update on Early Learning Initiative (20 min) Rebecca Reese, CEDO; Brian Lowe, Chief Innovation Officer
4. The Neighborhood Project - Discussion of report recommendations (45 min) Gillian Nanton, CEDO
5. Next Steps (5 min)



To: Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee
From: Mary Danko, Library Director
Date: 5/30/19
Re: Early Literacy Outreach Program

The Library requests \$17,332 from the ELI Capacity Grant Funds to help fund and establish the Early Literacy Outreach Program Coordinator as a Limited Services Position for FY20. This funding complements \$30,500 in already secured grant funding for the program as outlined below. I believe that this opportunity will meet the guideline to “help to deliver on the administration priority” of improving Early Childhood education. This key initiative of the Mayor and the Library provides support to early learners not served through other programs to boost kindergarten readiness. It was the Mayor’s recommendation to develop ELOP as a volunteer program that created this unique opportunity to meet an urgent defined need while also providing outreach and community engagement. This will also expand the library’s community outreach to serving early learners in new and different environments.

Early Literacy Outreach Program (ELOP):

ELOP is an innovative pilot program at the Fletcher Free Library that addresses both the need for increased literacy and kindergarten readiness skills for Burlington children (Burlington has a 68.9% readiness compared to neighboring South Burlington’s 95.7%) and the quality crisis in home child cares in Vermont. In Chittenden County, 81% of home child cares have a 3 or lower rating from the Vermont Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS). There are no programs other than ELOP currently working to support the 0-3 star home child cares and the children within them; the opportunity gap for those children is likely to increase. These home care providers had not been able to access trainings and other resources that support larger child cares due to numerous factors including lack of transportation, no substitute staffing, and long working hours to accommodate parent schedules. These child cares then do not have access to the additional funds and resources available to 4 and 5 star child cares, further exacerbating the quality divide.

The Early Literacy Outreach Program (ELOP)

- Brings early literacy teaching, planning support, and quality improvement to home-based child cares in Burlington.
- Addresses each of the five domains of kindergarten readiness, including math and cognitive skills such as numeric literacy, gross and fine motor skills practiced during movement and manipulative activities, and social and emotional skills such as sharing, turn-taking, and listening.
- Takes Library strengths—early literacy and story times—out to children and providers who are unable to access library resources by matching trained volunteers one-to-one with a home child care.
- Provides a curriculum-based story time complete with early literacy books, manipulatives, activities, and active engagement with the children for the volunteers.
- Strengthens the teaching skills of the providers, impacting children beyond the scope of the program.
- Supports a feedback loop to the library with connecting library programming.
- Expands connections to other areas for Early Learning including Family Room, Parent University and soon, local laundromats.

**Financial Overview**

Grade 10, Step 1: \$17.10/hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year: \$34,200

FICA & Medicare @7.65%: \$2600.00

Worker's Comp@4.26%: \$1456.00

Health@26.5%: \$9,063.00

Dental@1.5%: \$513.00

Limited service has no Retirement benefits

Total: \$47,832.00 Secured Grants starting 7/1/19: \$ 30,500.00 Balance: \$17,332.00

History:

ELOP arose in early 2018 through the request of a city councilor to address the child care crisis. The Library designed a sustainable program to bring early literacy programming to home day cares in Burlington and hired an AmeriCorp volunteer to explore the community perception, acceptance and need for such a program. The ELOP coordinator met with home child care providers and identified providers in Burlington with 0-3 star ratings. The excitement of children, families and providers during this exploratory phase moved the Fletcher Free Library to create a pilot program (phase 2) that recruits and trains volunteers to increase outreach and create a sustainable, cost-effective, and reproducible program. These trained volunteers are matched to the home child cares, visiting children on a weekly basis with specially curated early literacy materials and conducting a curriculum-based story-time program. This program is modeled after successful volunteer-based models such as Meals on Wheels and Reach Out and Read. Volunteers give a one-year commitment, receive background checks and training, are matched with a home day care, and provide literacy outreach once per week to the identified home day care. They are also given supervision and program support throughout the year. Support includes ongoing training and mentoring. In addition to the ELOP Coordinator, the Library Director and Head Youth Services Librarian also provide supervision. The existing volunteers represent our diverse community and include experienced teachers. Each brings enthusiasm and ideas to the program. One volunteer now visits her assigned child care twice weekly since the children that attend are different depending on the day of the week. She wants to reach as many as possible. Another went back to make butter with the children as a supplemental activity. It is impossible to quantify the bonds and development that is already occurring through this program.

Assessment:

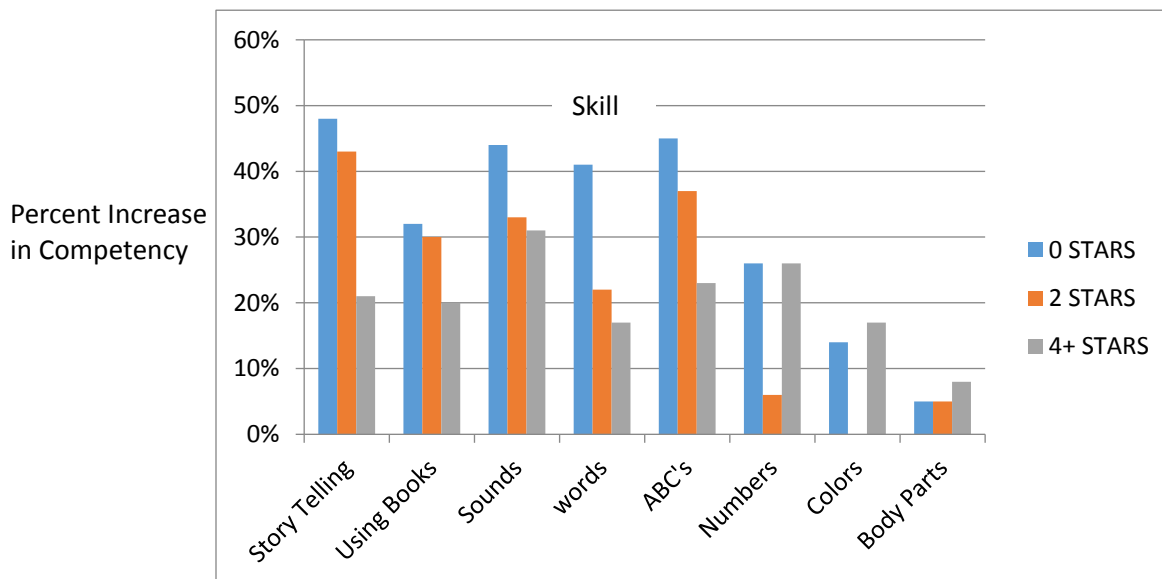
During the exploratory phase, ELOP developed and implemented detailed assessment tools, including age-specific rubrics to measure impact on targeted early literacy skills. The data for the rubrics was taken from the Vermont Department of Education Early Learning Standards. We use these rubrics to evaluate impacts of the program on participating children. Additionally, the program will use qualitative data including testimonials from providers and families, as well as program participation numbers to determine success. We plan to survey participating families regarding Library use at intervals throughout the program and plan to work with the Burlington School District to determine program impacts once participating children reach kindergarten.

For providers, ELOP will determine success based on a variety of factors. Primarily, ELOP will consider the achievement of at least one STAR significant success. ELOP will continue to work closely with Let's

Grow Kids (formerly Vermont Birth to Five) to improve support networks for home-based providers. ELOP will consider provider engagement with Let's Grow Kids mentoring resources a successful outcome of the program. Furthermore, ELOP will conduct a reflective practice survey for providers to gain a qualitative understanding of how the program can better serve provider needs.

ELOP reaches marginalized young children (0-5 years of age) where they spend their day, in poorly performing home child care settings, to nurture and stimulate early learning. In addition to stimulating and nurturing the children, the providers will also gain support, encouragement, and new ideas from the materials, activities, and support bag that arrives with volunteers each week. The program also includes a parent/provider component, offering two events during the year that will include parent/guardians, providers, and children, to create a connection between home, child care and library for early literacy and development. ELOP coordinator is conducting further outreach to build relationships with children not served by registered home providers. The goal of this outreach is to provide early literacy support to children who are not accessing other resources, and to build community trust to eventually bring ELOP to unregistered, family-style home childcares. These sites include: Family Room Drop-in program, Northgate Community Playgroup, Parent University. A laundromat story time program is also in development as part of this outreach.

Kindergarten Readiness Skill Impacts at STAR levels (Pilot Phase One included a comparison between children in home childcares with zero, 2, and 4 or more STAR ratings (*ratings have changed since this data was finalized in August, 2018))



- i. Children in these home childcares with the lowest STAR ratings demonstrated the highest levels of improvement.
- ii. **ALL** participating children in home childcares demonstrated improvement of targeted skills on some level.



Need help paying for child care?

Your child may qualify for the First Steps Scholarship Program

Early Learning Initiative Update: Capacity Grants and Scholarships

Building on a successful pilot year, ELI will double the children it serves over 2 years

4 Years of ELI

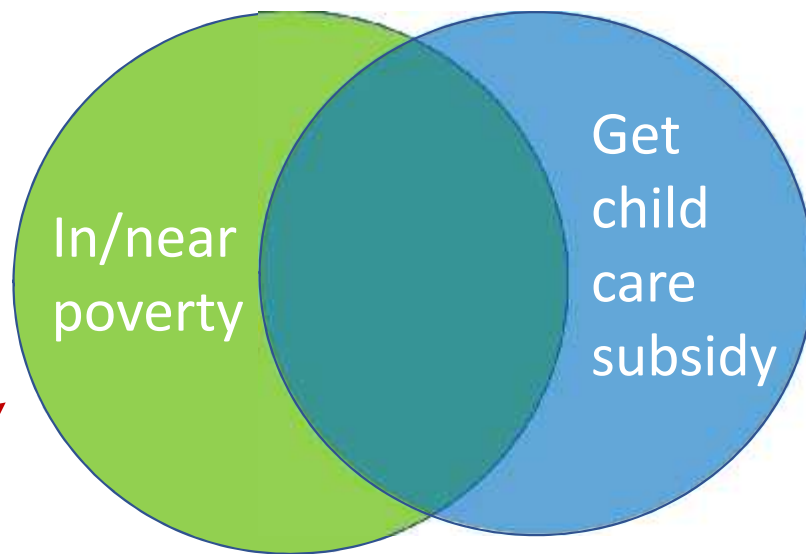
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Capacity Building Grant	\$460,000	\$210,000	\$105,000	\$55,000
Scholarship	0	\$210,000	\$315,000	\$365,000
# of scholarships	N/A	20	43	52
Total	\$460,000	\$420,000	\$420,100	\$420,000

2019 Capacity Grants

Head Start	Creating 20+ early learning spots in a high need neighborhood over the next two years
Burlington Children's Space	Purchasing building, reducing operating cost and allowing for future expansion
Pine Forest	Addressing center critical need, while galvanizing expansion effort
Fletcher Free Library	Supporting low STAR child care centers through literacy programs

Burlington Landscape

About 300 Burlington young children live in poverty (not all are in high quality child care)



About 120 Burlington children get CCFAP subsidy (not all are in poverty)

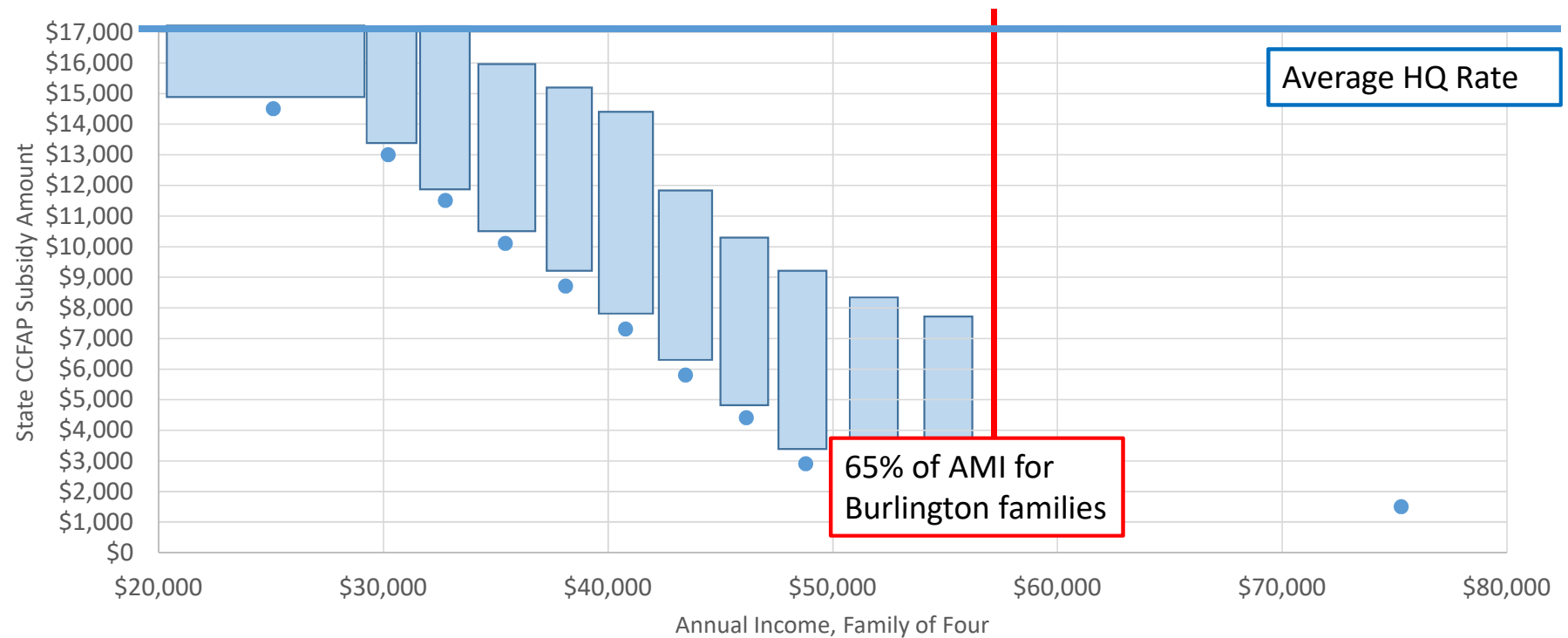
Children 3 and under, in or near poverty but not in high quality child care

First Steps Scholarship Update

- 100% spots identified for applicants – but matching hurdles remain
- Reaching $\approx 20\%$ of target population
- Adjusting to need with flexible timing

Appendix

ELI Scholarship: Helping Families & Centers



Blue dot = represents the level of State CCFAP subsidy
Blue box = represents the additional value of the City scholarship

Scholarship Outreach

- High-quality child care centers in and around BTV
- BTV pediatric offices
- Head Start and Franklin Square Connection
- UVM Medical Center
- WIC
- Burlington Parks and Recreation Waterfront
- Burlington City Arts
- Visiting Nurse Association
- Vermont Health Department
- Howard Center
- LUND
- Reach UP
- United Way
- Community Health Center
- Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf
- Burlington Public Library
- Family Room
- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club
- University Healthy Center, Pediatrics
- Department of Employment & Training Resource Center
- Burlington School District
 - Early Education Department
 - Parent University
 - Curriculum Department
 - Burlington High School Student Support Services
 - Expanded Learning Department
 - Hunt Middle School Student Support Services



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Committee Members: Chair Brian Pine (BP), Councilor Karen Paul (KP), Councilor Ali Dieng (AD)

In attendance: Ian Jakus, Joe Speidel, Bill Ward, Gillian Nanton, Caryn Long, Sandy Wynn, Carol Livingston, Rebecca Thompson, Mary Danko, Councilor Sharon Bushor

Thursday, June 6th, 2019

5:30 – 7:00 PM

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Draft Minutes

1. Review Agenda (5 minutes)

BP commenced meeting at 5:30

KP made a motion to change order of the meeting - motion to switch the #4 agenda item 'The Neighborhood Project' and the #3 agenda item the 'Update on the Early Learning Initiative'

BP seconded the change in the agenda.

2. Public Forum (10 minutes)

BP notes that there will be further opportunity to speak during the agenda items.

3. The Neighborhood Project - Discussion of report recommendations (45 min)

Gillian Nanton, CEDO

BP asks Gillian Nanton, Assistant Director, CEDO to work through the recommendations and lay out the scope of work.

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contact Gillian Nanton at Gnanton@burlingtonvt.gov

GN explains the task assigned by City Council on April 29 was to prioritize recommendations and report back to council end of July.

There was agreement in prioritizing the recommendations relating to quality of life enhancements.

BP asked for an update on current efforts by Code Enforcement and UVM.

Bill Ward, Director, Code Enforcement said working with Gail Champnois at the UVM Community Coalition for move out day this year was a big success, four dumpsters. One of Code Enforcements greatest successes is identifying the ongoing problem properties for strategic approach. Often times nuisance complaints do not result in tickets so this requires sharing of police data on nuisance complaints and early intervention.

KP stated that she will personally call landlords if there are issues, this happens less frequently now.

Joe Speidel, UVM, said the University is starting an online education for renters that will be mandatory, including fair warning for any renter that they would sign off on and then that will serve as warning for future action.

Bill Ward said there are some landlords that are repeat offenders, in cases where the tenants have substandard living conditions. The new report card instituted by inspections – the problem properties/units have to be re inspected more frequently. There are issues that go beyond safety like ‘four unrelated’ ordinance, and non-sanitary trash which is currently a \$100 fine. He suggested increasing the fine for non-sanitary trash to \$500 would be helpful. Many landlords will contest the tickets, but many will just pay, but if a property owner appeals then it goes to a jury trial.

Councilor Sharon Bushor stated that on East Ave, there was illegal dumping. She said that spring cleanout has negative consequences, because the students who live in many areas think they can leave everything out on the tree belt and they don’t get picked up everywhere. Dealing with trash left illegally how do we deal with that?

Bill Ward responded that the flyer for move out day does say that you cannot leave things on the greenbelt. Not doing spring move out would make it a lot worse.

AD asked if the good landlords get rewarded.

Bill Ward responded that Code Enforcement leaves the good landlords alone, with a longer time for re inspection, which is what they want.

Joe Speidel said that there are other ways to work with landlords. Treating rentals like businesses. Joe said he is willing to do some research on this.

The CDNR Committee members agreed that UVM should pursue this research about how to really approach landlords as a business. UVM determined that they cannot recommend specific landlords.

Caryn Long asked Joe to look into how to enforce the 'four unrelated' ordinance.

Joe Speidel responded that from what he has heard other communities are doing the same things, and have the same challenges.

Bill Ward said that Code Enforcement has 9 'four unrelated' cases this year. If someone is willing to lie, it is hard because they get 48 hours notice before an inspection. This year the City has received \$22,000 from the penalties for violation fees.

Carol Livingston said she heard this issue about the cost on campus housing.

Joe Speidel said that UVM is currently doing a housing study. The reasons for living off campus have not been financial in the past. He said comparing off campus and on campus housing costs is difficult because many additional services are included for on campus housing.

KP asked to go through the other recommendations in the other 2 categories, or come up with a response to some of the steps.

Gillian Nanton explained there are potential issues where demographic changes are leading to single family homes being converted to rentals. Building more student housing did come out of this as the number one recommendation, secondly creating a property acquisition fund.

Carol Livingston asked if there was any regulation to impede that conversion from happening?

BP said we have long looked at this, and there is really no way to stop that from happening. You can't stop someone from selling to an investor.

Caryn Long said there are people who would like to buy but are being outbid.

Sandy Wynn said there was a house on Loomis that was in terrible shape that was converted back into a single family home but this is rare.

Caryn Long said we should set up a fund to provide assistance with those conversions.

Ann said the solution is for UVM to build more housing, either on campus or off campus.

Karen Paul said that UVM will be getting their housing study completed and will be having more conversations with leadership there. Students want to live off campus for independence and privacy. It is up to UVM to build housing that will satisfy these requirements. If landlords can no longer sell by the bed they will either sell, or improve their property. As a first step UVM needs to explore the Trinity Campus.

Sandy Wynn said that UVM needs to lift their status as a dry campus because that has driven students off campus. There used to be a strong differential between homestead tax rates versus investment property, but that benefit for homestead has been largely reduced. Local lenders have programs to renovate properties, we don't need to recreate the wheel, so be cautious about this. Burlington needs to reassess properties because they are severely under appraised.

KP said when the balance has tipped toward absentee landlords in neighborhoods it is really unfortunate, but we should prioritize the ones where balance between single family and multi-family can be maintained. There are cases when sellers will prioritize sales to non-investors, but it takes a community effort. KP suggested that in regards to Trinity Campus housing, it would be meaningful if it could happen, although it would be great if it could accommodate more students.

Sandy Wynn said that Real Estate agents are really driving this issue when they push for a fast sale and a commission.

AD said there should be a cap for UVM to target a certain percentage rate of on-campus housing.

BP stated that there are already agreements with UVM that regularly renegotiated to this end.

4. Update on Early Learning Initiative (20 min) Rebecca Reese, CEDO; Brian Lowe, Chief Innovation Officer

Rebecca Reese presented on the 2019 capacity grants (attached) and the First Step Scholarship.

Discussion of handout explaining the Early Literacy Outreach Program (attached).

Mary Danko said that the library could provide home daycares with a once a week literacy program. The providers like it because it gives them respite and provides interaction for the kids.

BP asked how many kids they are reaching.

Rebecca Thompson responded she personally is reaching about 50 with the additional volunteers roughly 100.

Mary Danko said that they would like to create a limited service position for which they have most of the funding, but need additional to fill the gap.

Brian Lowe said it is a great investment to leverage connection with the library.

BP asked how many kids are in home childcare.

Rebecca Thompson responded that most home providers are not registered but that there are 17-19 providers that are registered but not high quality.

Brian Lowe explained that with some funding from ELI Capacity Grants this program could help bridge the gap to these home providers that they are not currently reaching.

AD suggested offering the program outside of home daycare providers to events.

BP referred to the Old North End Enterprise Strategy that created a network of home daycare providers but that it was not maintained.

AD made a motion to support the 2019 Capacity Grant recommendations including the addition of funding for the Early Literacy Outreach Program. The motion was seconded by BP, unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15