



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:00 PM

**Social Services Committee**

Members Present: S. Olds Frey, D. Ohanian, A. Ngola, A. Sood, S. Lackey, K. Hayes, Councilmember Reid, Councilmember Burns

Members Absent: None

Staff: S. Flax, J. Wingader

**Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum**

Chair Olds Frey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Suspension of the Rules**

Vice Chair Ohanian moved approval, seconded by Ms. Hayes; a roll call vote was taken to suspend the rules to allow for virtual participation and it was approved 7-0.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2022**

Ms. Lackey moved approval of the meeting minutes for May 12, 2022, seconded by Ms. Hayes; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**2022 Emergency Solutions Grant Recommendations**

Staff reviewed prior year allocations and summarized recommendations for 2022; it was noted that funds could shift between Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention based on community need. Staff also reviewed past year impact on spending including the challenges of using Prevention given the moratorium on evictions. With no other discussion, Councilmember Reid moved approval of the 2022 ESG allocations to Connections for the Homeless - \$15,495 for its Street Outreach program; \$35,357 for Emergency Shelter Operations; \$23,242 for Homeless Prevention rent and utility assistance and case management; and \$54,231 for Rapid Re-housing rental assistance for a total award amount of \$128,324, the YWCA Evanston/North Shore in the amount of \$15,000 for Emergency Shelter Operations, and \$11,621, for program administration, seconded by Vice Chair Ohanian. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

**Proposal for ARPA Child Care Provider Retention Pay Program**

Staff provided an overview of the proposed program and summarized discussions with the Evanston Early Childhood Council and other providers who requested a program to support workers. Staff noted that providers also discussed the challenges faced

retaining staff. Staff outlined eligibility requirements for premium pay, ways the program could be administered, and how the program was developed based on assessment of providers and the populations served. Per ARPA guidelines, staff worked to define a class of eligibility that would qualify providers for retention pay, whether the providers were center- or home-based and regardless of for-profit or nonprofit status. The defining criteria for eligibility includes the percent of low/moderate income households providers serve.

There was discussion about the timing of implementation and whether the program would serve to retain staff; members also discussed the program structure. There was discussion about flexibilities and limitations of the program as well as challenges the childcare industry is facing. Staff briefly discussed additional programs to support the industry, including workforce development, still under review. Staff detailed eligibility requirements and income thresholds; members discussed requirements for populations served. There was general agreement that childcare providers that didn't serve low/moderate income families would not be eligible.

There was discussion about the model used to estimate the number of staff given population size as defined by the Department of Children and Family Services, providers who might be excluded and different ways to administer funds. Members expressed interest in narrowing the number of providers included in the program to focus on those who serve low/moderate income families. Councilmember Reid suggested a minimum threshold of eligibility; providers serving at least 30% low/moderate income households could be eligible for a lower rate of retention pay. Staff confirmed the timeline for the program and agreed to provide additional information once the application period ended in August. Specifically, once the application process closes, staff will report the number of child care providers that applied and the number of workers eligible for assistance; the Committee could determine final award amounts based on provider characteristics. The Committee will have the ability to approve the final premium pay amounts per recipient based on the program budget and responses from child care providers. Final awards will not exceed the approved budget for the program.

Councilmember Burns proposed consideration of allocating additional funding for premium pay for child care workers in the future to help address the underlying issue of very low wages in this industry sector. Ms. Ngola expressed support for the program and Chair Olds Frey called for a motion. Councilmember Reid moved approval of recommending to Human Services that \$500,000 in ARPA funds be allocated to a child care retention program seconded by Ms. Hayes; a roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved 8-0.

### **Staff Report**

Staff provided an update from Infant Welfare Society of Evanston and information about the City's 2022 CDBG grant award including a finalized amount eligible for public services.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Wingader  
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist