

MEMO
3/12/98

To: Board Planning Committee
From: Leon Laptook, Deputy Director
Subject: Head Start Grants

At the Head Start Policy Council meeting on March 10, 1998, the Policy Council approved and recommended approval by the CAO Board of three Head Start grant applications. These are:

State Expansion- A request to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for the addition of 120 slots with first year funding of \$676,544. Services in the first year will be for a 13 week period from March to June 1999. Slots will be targeted towards unserved three year olds who will return for a full year of services the following year. Classes will be offered one day a week with two home visits a month. In subsequent years classes will increase to two days per week. Major start-up expenditures include the purchase of two buses, partial payment on four modular classrooms (to be used by Beaverton School District in exchange for permanent space in Beaverton elementary schools), classroom equipment, furnishings, etc.

Federal and State Continuation Grants- Annual requests to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) and ODE for continued funding of 346 Head Start slots (federal- 264 slots, \$1,575,075; state- 82 slots, \$489,212). Cost of living and quality improvement funding of about 4% have been announced by HHS and will be budgeted after official notification from the HHS regional office. Children will be served from 9/98-6/99. 300 children will be served in a center based model (4 days a week, 3 home visits per year), 18 will be served in a combination model (3 days a week, 8 home visits a year), and 28 children, all three year olds, will be served by a combination model (2 days a week, 19 home visits a year). Existing centers will be used. New sites may be available in elementary schools in Beaverton and Tigard.

In addition to the grant applications, the Policy Council also approved submitting a request to HHS to increase our cost per child by dropping 26 federal slots. Our current cost per child is \$5966, the second lowest cost per child among Oregon Head Start programs. By dropping 26 slots our cost per child will be increased to the state average of \$6450 per child. These additional funds per child will fund various program improvements to better serve children and families. Since the state cost per child is determined by the federal rate additional state funds will be allocated to the program if the request is approved by HHS. Both our federal and state program representatives support this request and encourage its submission. Through State expansion the Head Start program will increase to 440 slots despite dropping these 26 slots.

Action Requested: Concurrence with the Policy Council recommendations and recommendation for approval by the CAO Board.