



TETON VALLEY COLLABORATIVE FOR EARLY LEARNING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (NON-BID)

The Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning (TVCEL) is inviting proposals from qualified persons or firms (Respondent) to provide Early Learning and Child Care Services at a newly renovated location: 481 Main Street, Driggs, ID 83422.

PROPOSALS DUE: By 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2023, Submit proposals electronically via PDF or word document attached to an email to collaborative@tetoneducation.org. The proposals will be opened after the submission deadline. Late proposals will not be accepted.

RFP AVAILABLE: The RFP will be available on Monday, March 18, 2024, on the TVCEL website (<https://www.tvcel.org/>). Any modifications to the RFP or responses to questions submitted will be added as an addendum to the RFP posted on the TVCEL Website (<https://www.tvcel.org/>). It is the responsibility of Respondents to check for addenda regularly.

QUESTIONS: All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to collaborative@tetoneducation.org by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2024.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Gambal House, 481 Main Street, Driggs, ID 83422 (See Site Map Exhibit "A").

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: In partnership with the Teton School District #401, the Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning is soliciting proposals for the operation of a full-day, year-round, Early Learning and Child Care Facility at the Gambal House. The service will be operated at the TSD #401 District Office, Gambal House, under a Property Sub-Lease with the TVCEL.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Respondents must be licensed to provide childcare services in the State of Idaho and have a minimum of five (5) years of experience providing childcare services to multiple age groups. Bids that do not meet the minimum qualifications above and submit the required documents listed below shall be deemed non-responsive and will

not be evaluated by the scoring committee.

PROJECT DEADLINE (if applicable): The awarded Respondent will enter into a Property Sub-Lease that expires on June 30, 2025. The Lease will include an annual review and an option for a four-year renewal (through June 30, 2029).

CONTACT: Kristi Meston, TVCEL Director. collaborative@tetoneducation.org

Timeline

1. **Advertisement of RFP:** March 18, 2024
 - Official announcement and release of the RFP to the public.
2. **Childcare Center Tours Available Until:** April 12, 2024
 - Last day for interested parties to tour the childcare center facilities.
3. **Last Day for Written Questions:** April 12, 2024, 5:00 pm
 - Deadline for submitting any written inquiries concerning the RFP.
4. **Proposals Due:** April 22, 2024, 5:00 pm
 - Final deadline for submission of proposals.
5. **Review and Evaluation of Proposals:** April 23, 2024
 - The selection committee will open, review, and evaluate all submitted proposals.
6. **Interviews with Highest-Ranked Respondents:** By May 7, 2024
 - The selection committee may conduct interviews with the highest-ranked respondents. Interview requirements will be provided to those selected for further consideration.
7. **Final Selection and Preparation:** By May 21, 2024
 - Final selection of the top-ranked proposal and preparation of the contract and sub-lease.
8. **Contract and Property Sub-Lease Execution:** By June 1, 2024
 - Finalization and execution of the contract and property sub-lease agreements.
9. **Child Care Program Opening:** By August 1, 2024
 - Official opening of the Child Care Program for business.

Proposals will remain valid for 90 days after submission. TVCEL reserves the rights to reject any and all proposals, amend this RFP as necessary, contract with any organization responding to this RFP for all or portions of the services requested, reject any proposal as non-responsive, seek proposals from, or contract with any organization not participating in this process, and not contract with any organization for the services requested. Furthermore, TVCEL reserves the right to change dates or deadlines related to this RFP. TVCEL also reserves the right to waive any informality or technicality in proposals received when in the best interest of TVCEL. This RFP is not a formal request for bids or an offer by TVCEL to contract with any organization(s) responding to this RFP. TVCEL makes no representation that participation in the RFP process will lead to the award of a contract or any consideration whatsoever. TVCEL reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, suspend, terminate, or reissue this RFP in whole or in part at any stage.

Respondents or their agents are instructed not to contact Teton School District #401(TSD #401) or the Teton Valley Collaborative of Early Learning (TVCEL) employees, agents or contractors, selection committee members, the Mayor's office or staff, members of the City Council, or attempt to externally manipulate or influence the selection process in any way, other than through the instructions contained herein, from the date of release of this RFP to the date of execution of the agreement resulting from this solicitation. In its sole discretion, the Collaborative for Early Learning may disqualify a Respondent for violating this provision.

Introduction

Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning (TVCEL) has leased a 3,854 square foot facility from Teton School District #401 for use by any individual(s) or business(es) seeking to operate a child care program for early care and learning in our community. It is in the best interest of the community as a whole to have adequate care for children. Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning seeks to ensure employees of key sectors and employers (school district, Teton Valley Health Care, and Teton County) have childcare options so they are able to fulfill vital services to the community.

The goal of partnering with an experienced early learning and child care business to create new child care availability in the Teton Valley community is to create a year round, welcoming, multi-use environment that provides high-quality, affordable, all-day care options for early learning and child care. We seek a long-term relationship with a Respondent who cares for and educates children from the age of infants (0) to pre-k of parents/guardians who live and/or work in Teton Valley, Idaho. Programs that prioritize infant (0) to 3 early childhood care will be prioritized. The Respondent will be a welcoming part of our community fabric and work to address early learning and child care needs in our community.

TVCEL will play a pivotal role in supporting the selected child care program, focusing on areas that complement the operations and reduce costs. Our involvement will include facilitating access to the Idaho Child Care Program subsidy for eligible families, mobilizing community volunteers for various support roles, and leading fundraising and community engagement initiatives. We plan to collaborate with local partners to enhance resource availability, advocate for policies that support child care, and focus on strategic planning for future needs, particularly in infant care. This approach is designed to ensure that this project not only meets the immediate needs of the community but is also well-prepared for future demands, emphasizing our commitment to fostering a supportive, adaptable, and efficient child care environment in partnership with the selected provider.

A. SCOPE OF PROJECT.

The Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning seeks a qualified early learning and child care provider to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Property Sub-Lease that expires on June 30, 2025. The MOU and Sub-Lease will include an annual review and an option for a four-year renewal (through June 30, 2029).

The early learning and child care provider is preferred to be open Monday – Friday, 12 months a year, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. However, hours may be negotiated as part of the respondent's and TVCEL's final agreement.

There is an existing parking lot and playground. Both will be shared with ABC in Teton Valley, 4H's summer programming, the TSD #401 Developmental Preschool, as well as the individuals and nonprofits that have offices in the TSD District Office.

The early learning and child care space is a former residence, The Gambal House, that has been moved and renovated to meet the needs of a child care program. It is approximately 3,854 square feet (Exhibit A) and is located next to the Teton School District #401 District Office. The early learning and child care space is a self-contained building with its own entry.

TVCEL has set aside funds to support with initial setup including partial furnishings and equipment. TVCEL will work with the successful Respondent to determine essential purchases. Furnishings and equipment purchased by TVCEL will remain the property of TVCEL.

TVCEL is exploring an innovative approach to enhance child care access and quality in our community through a business membership model. Through membership fees, businesses that contribute to TVCEL will be granted prioritization for child care slots. This model not only fosters a direct benefit for employees of participating businesses, ensuring their families have priority access to child care, but also supports the financial sustainability of TVCEL and the chosen child care provider. Membership fees collected will be strategically reinvested into the operations of TVCEL and the child care facility, enabling both to enhance service offerings, maintain high-quality care standards, and support the broader mission of improving early learning and care in Teton Valley.

TVCEL has recently conducted an Employer Child Care Needs Assessment of local employers that provide essential services, including Teton Valley Health Care, TSD #401, and Teton County. It is estimated that amongst these employers, there is a potential need for at least 43 child care slots, comprising 14 infants, 13 toddlers, and 16 preschool-aged children.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. **Estimated Capacity and Initial Enrollment:** It is estimated that the facility can accommodate up to 70 children. There is an immediate need for at least 38 slots distributed as follows: 16 infants, 11 toddlers, and 11 preschool-aged children. Please note that these enrollment figures serve as an initial guide and are subject to refinement.
2. **Relationship with TVCEL:** The selected child care provider will formalize their partnership with TVCEL through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Sub-Lease Agreement. While the precise yearly lease amount will be determined in the forthcoming phase of the RFP process, it is anticipated not to surpass \$1,200 per month. TVCEL is committed to supporting the child care operation by facilitating access to the Idaho Child Care Program, engaging community volunteers for various roles, leading fundraising and community outreach initiatives, and providing strategic planning support, particularly for future infant care needs. The scope of support services will be collaboratively defined with the chosen provider, ensuring alignment with operational needs and community aspirations. Neither the selected childcare provider nor its employees will be employees of TVCEL.
3. **Maintenance:** TSD #401 will be responsible for routine maintenance of the plumbing

system, heating, ventilation system, structural components, and the building exterior of the leased space. The selected proposer shall be responsible for paying for repairs to any damage for which they are at fault. TSD #401 will be responsible for lawn maintenance and snow removal.

4. **Janitorial Services:** The selected contractor shall be responsible for housekeeping maintenance and janitorial cleaning of the leased space, including the adjoining outside area in front of the center. The selected contractor shall be expected to keep the kitchen, food preparation, and serving areas clean, sanitary, and free from refuse and debris at all times in compliance with health department food service standards.
5. **Utilities:** The selected contractor will be responsible for the following utilities: phone, electric, internet, water/sewer, and janitorial services.
6. **Miscellaneous:** Additionally, the selected provider must:
 - Carry adequate liability insurance
 - be licensed with the City of Driggs, if applicable and the State of Idaho, meeting all necessary inspections and Background Checks, and will be required to stay in compliance with such licensure during the term of their lease agreement,
 - Participate in ongoing quality enhancement through IdahoSTARS Steps to Quality, accept ICCP (Idaho Child Care Program), and strive to provide safe and high-quality care.

B. CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

Interested parties shall submit a proposal to be considered for the award of this contract agreement with TVCEL. The proposal shall include all the information requested in order to be considered. Proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee using the criteria outlined in the Evaluation Criteria section.

The proposal must include:

1. Proposal Information:
 - a. Name of individual or entity
 - b. Address
 - c. Phone Number
 - d. Email Address
2. Experience: Respondents are encouraged to provide detailed information about their prior experiences and qualifications in the field of early childhood care. Respondents should describe their experiences with childcare facilities, highlighting any specific roles they've played in providing similar childcare services, as well as their approach to customer service within the childcare sector. Additionally, it's important to detail familiarity and experience with state licensing systems alongside any relevant training and certifications that enhance the respondent's qualifications in early childhood education.

3. **Direction & Staff Qualifications:** For staffing qualifications, respondents must outline the educational background, experience, and specific qualifications required for the director and any program supervisors, ensuring that these standards align with regulatory expectations for quality childcare. Furthermore, the educational, experience, ongoing training, and other essential qualifications for each employee should be clearly stated, reflecting the center's commitment to creating a competent and professional team.
4. **Description of Services, Community Experience, Licensing, and Relationship:** The Respondent should include information about their day-to-day operations of an early learning and child care space, their experience in providing early learning and child care within a community, as well as any requests for collaboration with TVCEL. Respondents should consider the following requests and priorities:

Hours of Operation – The facility shall be open on weekdays, holidays excluded, for daily childcare services from 6:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Desired Rates and Scholarship Program – Respondents should propose daily rates for various age groups—infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children—that at minimum, are equal to the ICCP full-day subsidy reimbursement rates for Teton County.

It is TVCEL's desire that the successful respondent offer a scholarship program that captures the majority of families served that do not qualify for the Idaho Child Care Program. Through this scholarship program, most families would pay reduced rates.

Respondents must detail their approach to offering scholarship rates. To ensure that childcare services are affordable, respondents are encouraged to outline their methodology for determining scholarship eligibility. A practical suggestion for the scholarship eligibility range is to accommodate households earning up to 125% of the maximum income limits for the subsidy, providing a broader safety net for those families who narrowly miss the subsidy criteria but still face financial constraints in accessing childcare.

5. **Staffing:** Respondents are requested to develop a staffing plan that meets Idaho Child Care Licensing requirements and Idaho STARS Steps to Quality Initiative requirements, emphasizing the importance of providing a living wage for all child care educators and support staff.
6. **Enrollment Priorities:** Respondents should include information about their enrollment processes and waitlist procedures. Respondents are required to acknowledge and agree to prioritize the child care needs of families associated with our designated business partners, (e.g. Teton Valley Health Care (TVHC), TSD #401, and Teton County.) This prioritization is a fundamental aspect of our approach to addressing the child care demands within our community, ensuring that the employees of these key sectors have reliable access to high-quality child care services.

The specific details of the prioritization plan will be co-developed at a later stage, in collaboration with the Teton Valley Collaborative for Early Learning (TVCEL) leadership. This collaborative effort will ensure that the prioritization framework is equitable, transparent, and effectively meets the needs of our community's workforce. The successful Respondent will be expected to work closely with TVCEL leadership to refine and implement this prioritization plan, demonstrating a commitment to supporting the families of our business partners and contributing to the overall well-being and economic stability of Teton Valley.

7. **Statement of Financial Capabilities:** Respondents should provide information about their experience in bookkeeping and auditing financial data related to childcare operations, experience, and demonstrated ability to pay salaries at the living wage. Respondents should detail their vision for the relationship between TVCEL and the respondent.
8. **Timeline:** The Respondent shall include a proposed timeline to become operational, considering licensing and other requirements that may affect the timeline.
9. **Marketing and Advertising:** The Respondent will include information about how they will market or advertise for enrollment.
10. **Budget:** Provide a detailed annual operating budget for the childcare, including but not limited to salaries, benefits, employee taxes, itemized goods and services, travel, training, one-time, startup costs, and transition costs. (Example Worksheet: EXHIBIT C)
11. **References:** Identify, by name, address, business telephone number, and contact person, at least three unrelated and unaffiliated organizations and/or parents to whom you have recently provided childcare services within the last twelve months, and briefly describe the services performed for each.

TVCEL reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. Proposals lacking the required information will not be considered. The award of the Property Sub-Lease will be subject to approval by the TSD #401 Board of Trustees.

C. SELECTION PROCESS

TVCEL is committed to a fair and transparent process for the selection of a child care provider. This RFP is issued to find the provider who best meets the objectives of this project. TVCEL reserves the right to modify the process at its sole discretion upon notice to all affected providers. TVCEL will create a selection committee composed of TVCEL staff, Board Members, and TSD #401 leadership. The selection committee will review and rate each proposal. The selection committee may interview the top qualifying provider and seek additional information regarding their proposed ideas, approach, business terms, and proposed business relationship with TVCEL. Based thereon, an entity may be chosen to enter into an agreement. Except as otherwise required by law, proposals received will not be

shared with any other respondents before beginning negotiations with the selected candidate and to the extent legally allowed, will be kept confidential.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals:

- i. Quality and viability of the proposal in the context of this RFP
- ii. The proposal's conformance with TVCEL's vision for child care.
- iii. Reasonable and realistic budget and/or business plan.
- iv. Benefit to the community
- v. Qualifications and experience of the child care provider and staff.
- vi. Experience with similar operations.
- vii. Experience working with other partner agencies (governments, non-profit organizations, etc.)
- viii. Viability of the proposal
- ix. Risk to TVCEL or TSD #401

D. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

1. **Non-Binding Agreement:** The provisions outlined herein are non-binding. A binding agreement will not be created until and unless the lease contemplated herein is fully executed by the selected Vendor. TVCEL is not bound by the terms of any lease until it has been fully executed by the authorized parties.
2. **No Representations or Warranty:** It is the responsibility of each Respondent to carefully examine this RFP and evaluate all of the instructions, circumstances, and conditions that may affect any proposal. Failure to examine and review the RFP and other relevant documents or information will not relieve Respondent from complying fully with the requirements of this RFP. Respondent's use of the information contained in the RFP is at Respondent's own risk, and no representation or warranty is made by TVCEL regarding the materials in the RFP.
3. **Cost of Developing Proposals:** All costs related to the preparation of the proposals and any related activities are the sole responsibility of the Respondent. TVCEL assumes no liability for any costs incurred by Respondents throughout the entire selection process.
4. **Equal Opportunity:** TVCEL will make every effort to ensure that all Respondents are treated fairly and equally throughout the advertisement, review, and selection process. The procedures established herein are designed to give all parties reasonable access to the same basic information.
5. **Proposal Ownership:** All proposals, including attachments and supplementary materials, will not be returned to the Respondent.

E. Exhibits

Exhibit A – Site Map and Location

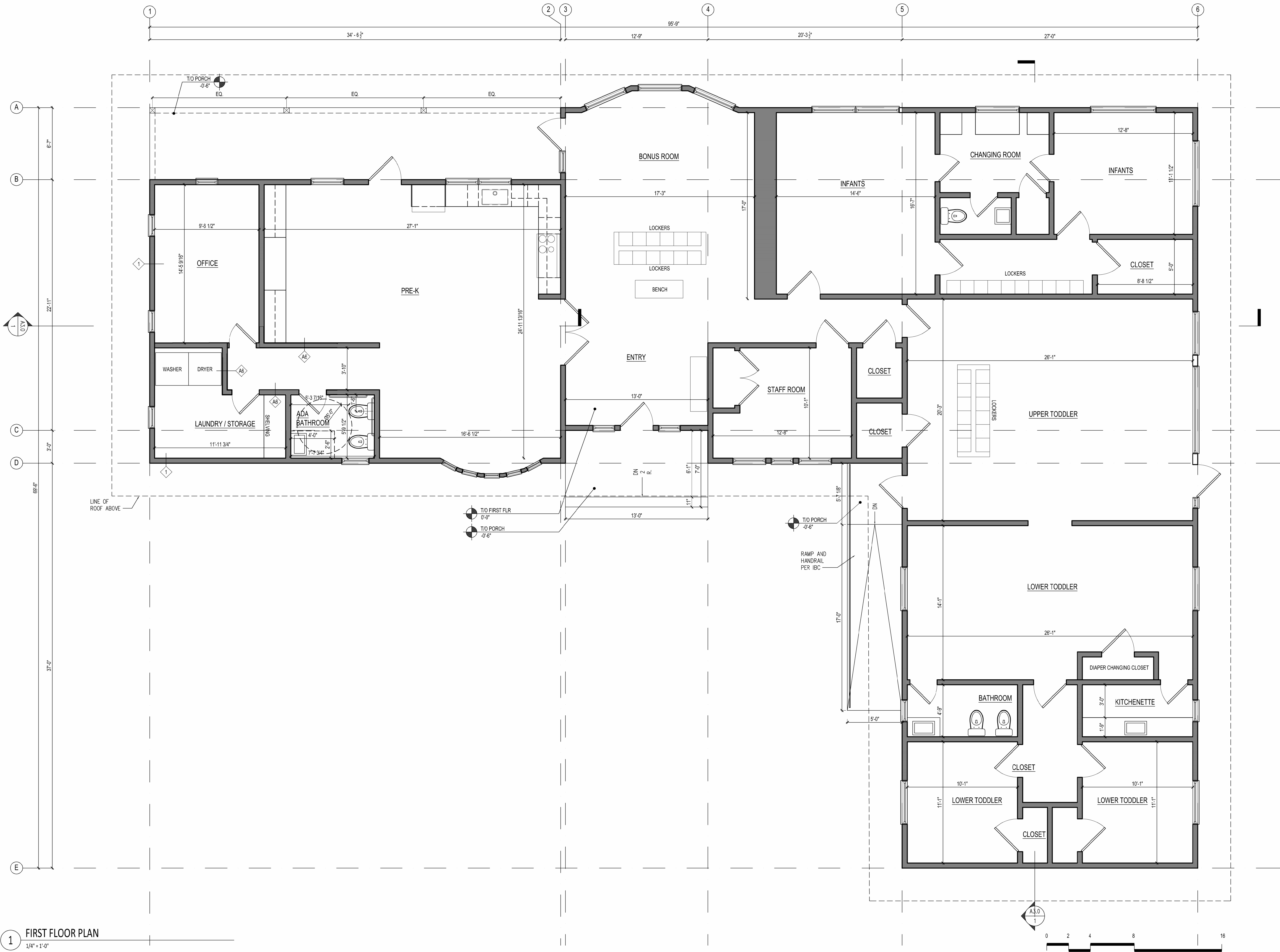
Exhibit B – TVCEL EMPLOYER CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Exhibit C – EXAMPLE BUDGET WORKSHEET

EXHIBIT A – Site Map and Location

© 2020 Northworks Architects & Planners - All rights reserved. Any discrepancies shall be reported immediately to the Architect before proceeding. Only figured dimensions should be used. Contractors and fabricators to verify all dimensions on site prior to beginning Work.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION / FOR COORDINATION ONLY



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"

06.01.2023 ISSUE FOR PERMIT

PROJECT
DRIGGS CHILDCARE BUILDING
481 N. MAIN ST., DRIGGS, ID

1921.1	Project No.
BF, PS	Drawn By
CW	Checked By
Discipline	Drawing No.

A 1.0

Drawing Name
FIRST FLOOR PLAN





Exhibit B – TVCEL EMPLOYER CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT



Teton Valley
Collaborative
for Early Learning

Teton Valley Employer Child Care Needs Assessment Report January 2024

Introduction

This report aims to assist in the design of a child care program tailored to the specific needs of the Teton County community. The analysis is based on surveys conducted to understand child care preferences and challenges among employees of Teton School District #401, Teton Valley Health Care, and Teton County Government, with a focus on families with children aged 12 or younger and those planning to have or adopt a child within the next two years.

Contextual Background

The Teton School District #401 is in a unique position to leverage the Gambal House donation to increase access to affordable and high-quality child care across the community.

All parents require some sort of child care arrangement before their children are school-aged. This need is met through a mix of arrangements, ranging from one parent staying home full-time to families relying on various child care options to cover their working hours.

The availability and quality of child care directly impact the economic well-being of families and, by extension, the community at large. Inadequate child care options can lead to increased absenteeism, reduced work performance, and influence job selection. For instance, a parent might turn down a job

offer, choose part-time work over full-time opportunities, or even have a spouse opt out of the workforce entirely to provide care.

These decisions, driven by child care inadequacies, not only affect individual family incomes but also have broader implications for the local economy.

For employers like Teton Valley Health Care, Teton School District #401, and Teton County, which provide essential community services, the impact of inadequate child care is even more pronounced. The lack of reliable child care can lead to higher staff turnover, increased operational costs, and a potential decrease in the quality of services offered to the community. These organizations, by virtue of their roles, require stable, committed, and focused employees – attributes that are directly influenced by the availability of quality child care.

This report, therefore, delves into the child care needs specific to these employers with families with children aged 0-5, highlighting the challenges in accessing reliable and adequate child care. Through this assessment, we aim to inform strategies and solutions that can enhance child care accessibility and reliability through the utilization of the Gambal House, thereby supporting the economic well-being of families and the overall health of the Teton Valley community.

Teton Valley Health Care:

Twelve employees of Teton Valley Health Care responded positively to anticipating needing increased access to child care, including a need for both part-time and full-time care for approximately 16 children under the age of 5.

This higher-than-expected response highlights an often-unrecognized demand for child care, especially when families rely on care provided by spouses who might otherwise be employed or the prevalence of families cobbling together full-time care from various sources, including family members, in-home care, and child care centers. 85% of TVHC respondents reported using more than one form of child care to meet their needs.

For TVHC respondents, the cost of care and the hours available emerged as the key reasons for considering a change from their current arrangements.

Another finding is the lack of utilization of available child care subsidies. While healthcare fields often see wages that would disqualify families from receiving subsidies, 40% were not even familiar with this program, pointing to a potential lack of awareness or accessibility to such financial support mechanisms.

Furthermore, the survey revealed a strong willingness among respondents to contribute to child care programs through volunteer activities, such as maintenance, yard work, fundraising, and in-classroom support. Not only does this suggest considerable potential for community engagement and a collaborative approach to child care

solutions, but can also be integrated into the program's model to reduce operating costs.

Key Highlights from TVHC:

- Significant demand for part-time and full-time child care among Teton Valley Health Care employees. Up to 10 infants, 2 toddlers, and 6 pre-school aged.
- Cost and hours of care are the primary factors influencing child care decisions.
- Low utilization and awareness of the Idaho Child Care Program subsidy.
- High willingness to participate in child care programs through volunteer work.

Teton School District #401:

Eleven employees responded with interest in securing child care through an alternative source to their current arrangement. Out of the respondents, a significant number (50%) are seeking part-time child care, while the other half require full-time care.

The primary factors that would prompt a consideration for change include the cost of care hours of care available, and the location of care. The weekly child care costs reported vary widely, with figures ranging from \$0 (for family-based care) to as high as \$600. This variation highlights the economic impact of child care on different families within the district.

None of the respondents currently utilize the Idaho Child Care Program subsidy, and 40% are not familiar with it. This lack of utilization suggests either a gap in communication

about such programs or challenges in accessing them.

A notable portion of the respondents (over 50%) expressed interest in contributing to child care programs through volunteer work, which could include various roles such as maintenance, yard work, and classroom support.

Key Highlights from TSD #401:

- There is a need for both part-time and full-time child care among Teton School District #401 employees. Up to 3 infants, 3 toddlers, and 3 preschool-aged children require full-time care, while 1 toddler and 2 preschool-aged children require part-time care. (9 full-time/ 3 part-time)
- Cost and hours of care are the primary factors influencing child care decisions.
- Low utilization and awareness of the Idaho Child Care Program subsidy.
- High willingness to participate in child care programs through volunteer work.

Teton County

A survey was conducted across Teton County agencies to understand the needs of County employees better, including child care. This survey, encompassing various sectors including essential services, sheds light on the critical need for child care solutions for essential employees.

Out of 86 respondents, 27 respondents indicated they have caregiving

responsibilities for children, signifying a direct requirement for child care services. Within this group, there is a diverse age range of children, with a focus on the younger age groups that align with Gambal House's target demographic: 1 infants (0-6 months), 6 toddlers (7-18 months), 2 older toddlers (19 months - 3 years) and 7 preschool-aged children (3-5 years).

The current child care arrangements of these employees vary. A notable 78% (21/27) rely on care provided by a spouse, partner, co-parent, or relative, highlighting a preference or necessity for family-based care. Despite this, the presence of younger children in their households points towards a potential demand for formal child care services like those offered by Gambal House, especially considering the challenges some families face in finding reliable and affordable care.

While the specific interest in Gambal House's services is currently modest, with 5 respondents expressing a desire to secure a spot, this initial interest suggests a foundational demand that could grow with increased awareness and availability of services.

Key Highlights from Teton County:

- 16 children under five years old. 5 respondents indicated interest in a Gambal House slot.
- Diverse child care needs, including both part-time and full-time care needs.
- Current reliance on family-based care.

Conclusion: Assessing Child Care Needs Across Teton Valley Health Care, Teton

School District #401, and Teton County Employees

The collective responses from Teton Valley Health Care, Teton School District #401, and Teton County employees provide a comprehensive overview of the child care needs within these key employers that provide essential services to the Teton Valley Community. The surveys reflect a growing demand for child care services, especially for children aged 0-5, the primary focus of the Gambal House project.

Across the three employers, there is a discernible need for both part-time and full-time child care solutions. Collectively, these employers indicate a potential requirement for a combined total of 43 child care slots, comprising 14 infants, 13 toddlers, and 16 preschool-aged children. Specifically, TVHC employees foresee a need for approximately 18 slots for children under the age of 5, TSD #401 employees account for 9 slots, and Teton County employees for 16 slots.

While this analysis suggests a considerable potential demand, it is important to recognize that not all these slots may be utilized. Some families may continue to prefer their existing child care arrangements due to various reasons such as proximity, cost, familial care, or satisfaction with current providers. Therefore, while these figures provide a valuable estimate of the total possible need, actual enrollment may vary based on individual family preferences and circumstances.

One strategy that would likely result in many of these anticipated slots being filled is if we

are able to provide more affordable care and extended operating hours, as the surveys indicated that the cost of care and the hours available are primary concerns across the board, affecting child care decisions profoundly.

One way to decrease costs for families while ensuring the program is adequately funded is encouraging participation in the Idaho Child Care Program, Idaho's child care subsidy program for eligible families. Working families with a household income less than 49% of the State's Median Income may be eligible for support paying for child care. A common thread in the surveys is the low utilization and awareness of the Idaho Child Care Program subsidy, suggesting a gap in communication and a potential barrier to accessing financial support. This aspect could be an area of focus for the Collaborative for Early Learning in providing information and assistance to families.

Another strategy for reducing costs is to utilize parent volunteers to do projects such as maintenance, yard maintenance, gardening, fundraising, marketing, community, purchaser, or in-classroom support. Notably, there is a high willingness among respondents from all respondents to participate in child care programs through volunteer work. This willingness indicates a strong community spirit and presents an opportunity for Gambal House to integrate community involvement into its operational model.

Survey results not only indicate a need for child care options now, the surveys also reveal a latent demand for child care. This latent demand is most evident in the

projected needs for younger children. As the existing groups of preschool-aged children age out of Gambal House's target demographic, there is an anticipated influx of younger children, especially infants, who will require care in the near future.

The data underscores the necessity for Gambal House to proactively expand and enhance its infant care facilities and services. Such a strategic approach will ensure that Gambal House is well-prepared to meet the evolving child care needs of families across the community. As Gambal House becomes more recognized and its services more accessible, it is reasonable to expect an increase in demand.

The insights gained from understanding the potential maximum demand are instrumental in shaping a comprehensive and responsive approach to child care in the community. The data not only quantifies the need for child care slots but also reveals the necessity for flexible and varied child care options to accommodate the dynamic needs of families performing essential services to our community. Recognizing this demand, Gambal House is poised to strategically plan its capacity, ensuring it is equipped not just in terms of numbers but also in staffing, utilization of space, and the quality of care provided.

Exhibit C – EXAMPLE BUDGET WORKSHEET

Submissions do not need to use the template, but we offer it as a useful tool.

Access the electronic budget template [here](#):

Create an editable copy by clicking File → Make a copy. This will create an editable budget that belongs to you only. You may share the link or download a PDF of your budget for submission.

