

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-372

AGENDA:

JULY 28, 2003

SUBJECT:

HUMAN SERVICES
PLANNING ALLIANCE
DESIGNATION AS
LOCAL COUNCIL FOR
GRANT APPLICATION

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

MIKE MATTHES
ACTING HOUSING
SERVICES DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

The Human Services Planning Alliance (HSPA) is requesting that the City of Des Moines designate HSPA as the eligible Local Council for the purpose of applying for a discretionary grant under the Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) program.

FISCAL IMPACT —

None.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

Grants established through the ELOA are funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Awards will be between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 depending on the size of the population to be served as well as geographic area to be served and the reasonableness of the budget in relationship to the services to be provided. While this will vary depending on the scope of the applications submitted, awards are expected to average \$700,000.

An eligible applicant for an ELOA grant must be designated, in writing, by a local government entity as a "Local Council" to serve one or more localities for the purpose of applying for an ELOA discretionary grant. The applicant must include a "Letter of Designation" (attached to roll call) in its application from an appropriate local government entity specifically designating it as the Local Council for the purpose of applying for an ELOA grant. The HSPA fulfills the Local Council requirements as outlined in the required designation letter.

The grant application to be submitted by HSPA will be a coordinated effort with the Des Moines Public Schools. It will be used for activities at eight targeted low-income childcare centers located in Des Moines and will be used for the following:

- Enhancing early childhood literacy;
- Promoting effective parenting;
- Increasing access to early learning opportunities for young

children with special needs; and

- Helping parents, caregivers, childcare providers, and educators increase their capacity to facilitate the development of cognitive, language comprehension, expressive language, social, emotional, and motor skills, and promote learning readiness.

The HSPA is a consortium of the public, private, and non-profit sectors organized to conduct human services-related planning in Polk County. Planning is focused in the areas of early childhood development, youth, health, housing, and workforce development.

The ELOA was passed by Congress to award grants to increase, support, expand, and better coordinate early learning opportunities for children and their families through local community organizations. The purposes of the Act are to: (1) increase the availability of voluntary programs, services, and activities that support early childhood development, increase parent effectiveness, and promote the learning readiness of young children so that they enter school ready to learn; (2) support parents, childcare providers, and caregivers who want to incorporate early learning activities into the daily lives of young children; (3) remove barriers to the provision of an accessible system of early childhood learning programs in communities throughout the United States; (4) increase the availability and affordability of professional development activities and compensation for caregivers and childcare providers; and (5) facilitate the development of community-based systems of collaborative service delivery models characterized by resource sharing, linkages between appropriate supports, and local planning for services.

