

Proposals for expenditures from LECC grant for Council consideration December 2023

Background: This funding is intended to support local priorities, including infrastructure for local Councils. Because the funding comes from a federal grant, all dollars must be expended by December 31, 2023. We are underspent in a few categories, so have some funds to allocate toward additional Council needs.

The Council is being asked to consider three funding recommendations:

1. **2024 Week of the Young Children activities** (books, curriculum boxes, family engagement activities). It is allowable to pre-purchase materials for use in 2024. This is historically an activity that the Council has supported financially. See the separate proposal for more information on Week of the Young Child.
2. **Books for School Readiness Programs.** Kerry, in her role as School Readiness Liaison, is requesting the Council approve the purchase of books for the School Readiness classrooms, including the infant toddler classrooms that are part of the school readiness expansion. Books are a critical part of any classroom and absorb a lot of wear and tear from daily use. In addition, NAYEC requires programs to have picture books and many of the programs are lacking these books. These funds would help provide the materials that quality programs need.
3. **New Haven Early Childhood Council Website Refresh.** The NHECC website is several years old and needs to be updated to make it more user friendly and easier to navigate, and to ensure that it has the appropriate security features. In addition, the current website is not up to date (e.g., doesn't include all the active programs in School Readiness); the redesign would make it easier to keep the site updated. We sought proposals from five firms; two responded. One quote was for \$19,997, the other \$7,200. Both firms are local.