



Dream Up Grant Process

Schmidt Futures (Eric Schmidt) released an RFP to raise the wages of 10,000 households by 10% by 2020.

The grant process was contracted out to four public land grant universities, including UW-Madison. The Institute for Research on Poverty is housing the process for UW-Madison.

The grant process is divided into stages: Idea generating (8/29), **Refinement (11/21, 12/3)**, Final pitch (January)

The Proposal

City staff engaged with several faculty and staff from IRP, WECA, and Reach Dane to develop a proposal that asks for significant investments into Child Care and OST as a sector. WECA is serving as the fiscal “home” of this project.

- ~50,000 children in Dane County rely on child care and OST and an additional 5,000 families can’t access these opportunities due to barriers
- About 6,000-7,000 Madison residents work in Child-Care and OST organizations, 40% of OST staff are people of color, and median wage is around \$13/hour

The proposal requests a suite of investments in the following categories:

- Wage increases for staff, targeting a minimum of \$15/hour (understanding the concerns about wage compression, sustainability, etc.)
- Maximizing Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy (state funding)
- Employer engagement to offer Early Care and Out of School Time care as a benefit
- Shared Services Network

Next Steps

There are eleven proposal currently being considered. Three will be selected to make pitches to Schmidt Futures and at least one will be selected for funding.

Implementation would require significant stake-holder engagement.

This platform is elevating some policy and system approaches to improving the Early Care and Out-of-School Time field.