

YOUTH & FAMILY
SERVICES

September 28, 2009

RECEIVED
SEP 28 2009
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor Alan Hanks
Office of the Mayor
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

The Honorable Alan Hanks:

Enclosed for your consideration is a Proposal to the City of Rapid City Regarding Ownership of the Monroe Head Start Building. We respectfully request that you review the proposal, confirm that it meets requirements, and begin the official review process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Craig Pfeifle
Facilities Subcommittee Chair
Youth & Family Services Board of Directors

Terry C. Whiting
President
Youth & Family Services Board of Directors

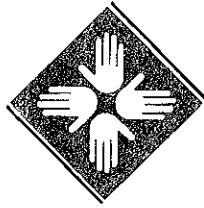
cc: Marcia Elkins, Growth Management Director
Jason E. Green, City Attorney

Services for youth & their families include.

Counseling • Crisis Intervention • Child Care • Education • Girls Incorporated • Head Start • Nutrition & Health • Parenting Programs • Prevention Programs • Recreation

1920 Plaza Boulevard • PO Box 2813 • Rapid City, SD 57709 • (605) 342-4195 • FAX (605) 342-0693

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YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

September 2009

A Proposal to the City of Rapid City Regarding Ownership of the Monroe Head Start Building

BACKGROUND

The Monroe Head Start facility, located at 410 East Monroe Street in North Rapid City, was built in 1977 by the City of Rapid City with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the purpose of providing early child development services to low-income families in Rapid City. The Community Action Program (CAP) operated the Head Start program in the building until 1984 when the Head Start grant and therefore occupancy of the Monroe building were transferred to Youth & Family Services.

Since that time, Youth & Family Services (YFS) has successfully provided Head Start services for children, ages 3-5. In 1991, YFS also began providing Early Head Start services for pregnant women and children, ages 0-3. These programs were restructured in 2005 into one seamless program, YFS Prenatal to Five Head Start, serving Rapid City and eight counties in western South Dakota. Total enrollment is currently 609, and two grants are pending to expand enrollment to even more children in our service area.

A Federal review team from Health & Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted an on-site monitoring review of the YFS Prenatal to Five Head Start program in December 2008. The team cited several strengths and found no areas of non-compliance with Head Start Performance Standards. Region VIII Head Start Area Manager Debra Hedin recently stated, "We see you (YFS) as a leader, not only in your state and our region, but also in the nation."

We deeply appreciate the long-standing collaborative relationship between our agency and the City of Rapid City. We appreciate the City's decision to use 2012 funds to construct the YFS facility at East Adams and the way the City navigated the challenges of that decision. The Adams facility now houses Girls Incorporated, Child Care, Nutrition Services, the Counseling Center, and the Western Prevention Resource Center, all YFS programs that primarily benefit underserved youth and their families. (Within two months of occupying the East Adams site, YFS was serving 200 additional children per day, and we have continued to raise the money necessary to provide services to the increased numbers of children.)

The City's on-going commitment to meeting the needs of low-income children and families has also been evidenced at the Monroe building. By leasing the building to Youth & Family

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Services for \$1 per year and by allocating CDBG funds for improvements to the building, the City has partnered with YFS to provide cost-effective, quality services to this population group.

In addition to improvements the City has funded through CDBG monies, YFS has invested significant resources of its own to keep the Monroe Head Start building upgraded to meet community needs. Through our fundraising efforts, approximately \$280,000 has been expended for site improvements—a new roof, a new parking area, expanded electrical capacity, and numerous smaller projects. Another \$10,000 grant was recently awarded to YFS for heating system corrections and restroom renovations at the Monroe building.

PROBLEM

Originally, the Monroe Head Start building was designed to provide both daycare and preschool services. As more women have entered the workplace, the needs of the community have changed, and now there is an increased demand for full day/full year childcare. This need is reflected in the City's five-year Consolidated Plan, which identifies high quality infant and toddler care as one of the top issues. It is also documented in a survey of childcare needs in Rapid City. South Dakota Voices for Children expects to finalize and distribute the full survey results this fall. We are confident these results will further underscore the need for more high quality childcare—especially for infants and toddlers.

In response to these identified needs, YFS applied for Early Head Start expansion funding. We proposed to serve 56 additional Early Head Start children: 32 infants and toddlers in a full day/full year program in Rapid City and 12 in a home-based option in Pennington County, as well as 12 additional children elsewhere in our service area. This proposal included a request for funding to construct a 2,313 square foot office addition to the Monroe facility, which would allow recovery of three classrooms that are currently being used as office space, giving us a total of seven classrooms to accommodate the expanded enrollment in Rapid City. YFS asked Head Start to fund \$200,397 of the \$460,776 total construction cost for this project. In a separate proposal, YFS asked Head Start for \$378,876 to remodel and construct an addition to the existing kitchen at Monroe, an upgrade that is essential to effectively serve expanded enrollment and maintain health and safety standards.

Unfortunately, Head Start officials notified us that the request for funding to remodel and construct an addition to the kitchen was denied because we do not own the building. Head Start program requirements do not allow funding for major renovation or expansion of non-agency owned properties. Our other request to expand the office space will be granted only if YFS owns the building. Together, these two grant requests totaled \$579,273.

Youth & Family Services is working to meet community needs by increasing the number of children served in its Early Head Start program, particularly by increasing full day/full year services. This effort is supported by the YFS Board of Directors, which has developed a 10-year Strategic Plan that includes expansion of services. In order to accomplish this goal, the Monroe building **must** be expanded and remodeled.

The YFS Child Care program in our East Adams facility provides full day/full year services for a limited number of infants and toddlers (16 total), and there is always a waiting list of up to 50 families who want to enroll their child. This is the only child care center in Rapid City that primarily serves low-income families.

All Head Start programs benefit low-income families. Early Head Start subsidizes child care fees for families who cannot afford large payments. Youth & Family Services does not earn a profit for providing these services. The agency's mission is to support children and their families in being capable, caring, and contributing members of the community. **The overall goal of YFS programs is to help families become more self-sufficient, to move out of poverty and into the workforce. Achievement of this goal will result in less crime in the community, more children succeeding in school, and more contributing adults—all of which benefits Rapid City as a whole. Expansion will also create more jobs, in both the construction and service delivery phases.**

REQUEST

Youth & Family Services respectfully requests the City Council of Rapid City to consider transferring ownership of the Monroe Head Start building to Youth & Family Services so we can obtain funds to renovate and expand the building. We believe a transfer of building ownership can be accomplished per SDCL § 6-5-2 and § 6-5-3. The legal description of the property is:

Lot A of Block 12 of Wise's Addition, located in the SE ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 31, T2N, R8E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota.


Youth & Family Services requests a resolution conveying the Monroe property to YFS ownership under these statutory provisions. Please note: If this occurs and if Head Start or other Federal funds are used for major renovation, we will be required to assure protection of Federal Interest.

Respectfully submitted,



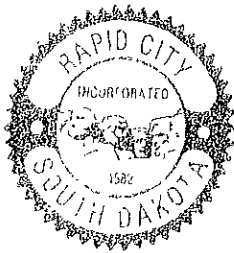
Craig Pfeifle, Facilities Subcommittee Chair
Youth & Family Services Board of Directors

9/28/09



Terry C. Whiting, President
Youth & Family Services Board of Directors

9/28/09



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

300 Sixth Street

605-394-4110

Fax: 605-394-6793

E-mail: mayor@rcgov.org

June 26, 2009

Ms. Holli Vanderbeek
YFS Head Start Director/Senior Program Director
Youth & Family Services, Inc.
PO Box 2813
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Ms. Vanderbeek,

The City of Rapid City supports your grant application and is pleased that you are seeking to expand the Early Head Start program for children 0-3, as high quality infant and toddler care is a very much needed service in the Rapid City area and is one of the high priority issues identified in the City's five year Consolidated Plan.

Your program provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. Studies have demonstrated that funding spent on the Head Start program earns a high return on the investment for society. Its benefits include increased educational achievement, improved health outcomes, higher expected future earnings, better employment opportunities, and increased family stability. Children enrolled in Head Start have a lower risk of welfare dependency, criminal behavior, grade repetition, and special education than their counterparts without the benefit of Head Start. The earlier young children learn that being active is fun the more likely they are to develop physical activity as a habit for life. Youth & Family Services' programs promote healthy lifestyles for infants, toddlers and preschoolers simply by the way the programs are structured. The programs and savings benefit the whole community, but most especially our very low income households who struggle to rise above the poverty level and provide for their families.

Youth and Family Services' willingness to take leadership roles in developing new programs, expand existing programs, participate in coalition group projects, and partner with other organizations in order to leverage funds, staff and resources for the good of youth and the community is what makes our community stronger.

The City supports and encourages the approval of your grant application.

Sincerely,

Alan Hanks, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota



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