Let’s Go Better Listening Session

Childcare, 9/15/2021
Agenda

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- Language Access Orientation
- Introductions
- Framework for Boston’s Federal Funds
- Funding Overview & Timeline
- The Current Reality of Childcare in Boston
- Existing Efforts and Best Practices
- Listening Session
- Conclusion
Language Interpretation Services

- Simultaneous interpretation services are being provided for this meeting in the following languages:

- To switch languages, please select the globe icon that will appear at the bottom of your screen and select the language of your choice.
Closed Captioning

Closed captioning is being provided. To access:
1. Find “Closed Caption”
2. Drop-down menu

Subtítulos

Se proporcionan subtítulos. Para acceder:
1. Busque “Closed Caption” (Subtítulos)
2. Abra el menú desplegable
We will be recording the presentation and posting it on our website and will shut off the recording during the question and answer period.

Please ask questions by typing them in the chat. If we do not get to your question or are on a phone, you can email the recover@boston.gov and we will answer your questions in the coming days.
Participant Controls

**Audio**
- Mute and unmute your microphone.
- Audio Controls (click the ^ arrow next to Mute / Unmute):
  - Allows you to change the microphone and speaker that Zoom is currently using on your computer, leave computer audio, and access the full audio settings.

**Video**
- Start Video / Stop Video: Turns your camera on or off.

**Participants**
- Participants: See who’s currently in the meeting.

**Chat**
- Chat: Access the chat window to chat with other participants.

**Reactions**
- Reactions: Meeting reactions, nonverbal feedback, and Raise Hand allow you to communicate issues or feedback to the host or presenter without disrupting the meeting. These reactions are shown on your video panel and next to your name on the participants panel.

Interpretation
- To switch languages, please select the globe icon that will appear at the bottom of your screen and select the language of your choice.
Introductions

Alexandra Valdez
Executive Director,
Mayor's Office of
Women's
Advancement

Ashley White
Director, Economic
Mobility Lab

Trinh Nguyen
Director, Office of
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Omar Khoshafa
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Initiatives & Strategic
Planning,
Mayor’s Office
Framework for Boston’s Federal Funds

An Equitable Recovery for All Boston Residents

Strengthening Our Health and Well-Being
- Food Insecurity
- Opioid Epidemic
- Violence & Trauma

Closing the Racial Wealth Gap
- Homeownership
- Small businesses

Training our Workforce for the Future
- Career Training
- Digital Access
- Quality Jobs & Childcare

Public Health

Wealth

Jobs
While exploring investment opportunities in these areas, there will be an emphasis on solutions that incorporate **Arts & Culture** and **Climate Resiliency**.
What are Boston’s available resources for recovery?

**Funding Overview**

- **Coronavirus Relief Bill** (December 2020)
- **CARES Act** (March 2020)
- **FEMA Reimbursements**
- **City Operating Budget**
- **American Rescue Plan Local Aid**
- **American Rescue Plan - School**
- **American Rescue Plan - Housing and Homelessness**
- **Massachusetts Recovery Funds**
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

**Equitable Recovery**
What is the impact of ARPA local aid in Boston?

Total Funds
- Boston estimated to receive **$558 Million** from ARPA, with $424 Million coming directly to Boston and an additional $134 Million from Suffolk County to come from the Commonwealth.
- **$136.5 Million** has been allocated to date for emergency relief investments and stabilizing Boston’s budget.

Guardrails
- ARPA funding must be committed **through December 2024**
- Fit into one of the eligible “uses” of spending on the next slide
What are Boston’s eligible uses of ARPA Funding?

**Funding Overview**

### Support Public Health Response
- Services to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including vaccination, medical expenses, testing, contact tracing, quarantine costs, capacity enhancements, and many related activities
- Behavioral healthcare services, including mental health or substance misuse treatment, crisis intervention, and related services
- Payroll and covered benefits for public health, healthcare, human services, and public safety staff to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response

### Address Negative Economic Impacts
- Deliver assistance to workers and families, including support for unemployed workers, aid to households, and survivor’s benefits for families of COVID-19 victims
- Support small businesses with loans, grants, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs
- Speed the recovery of impacted industries, including the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors
- Rebuild public sector capacity by rehiring staff, replenishing state unemployment insurance funds, and implementing economic relief programs

### Equity-Focused Services
- Additional flexibility for the hardest-hit communities and families to address health disparities, invest in housing, address educational disparities, and promote healthy childhood environments
- Broadly applicable to Qualified Census Tracts, other disproportionately impacted areas, and when provided by Tribal governments

### Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss
- Ensure continuity of vital government services by filling budget shortfalls
- Revenue loss is calculated relative to the expected trend, beginning with the last full fiscal year pre-pandemic and adjusted annually for growth
- Recipients may re-calculate revenue loss at multiple points during the program, supporting those entities that experience revenue loss with a lag

### Broadband Infrastructure
- Focus on households and businesses without access to broadband and those with connections that do not provide minimally acceptable speeds
- Fund projects that deliver reliable service with minimum 100 Mbps download / 100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable
- Complement broadband investments made through the Capital Projects Fund

### Water & Sewer Infrastructure
- Includes improvements to infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems
- Eligible uses aligned to Environmental Protection Agency project categories for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
CITY OF BOSTON

CHILDCARE INITIATIVES

Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement
Optional childcare survey insert in the City Census
- Conducted in 2019 and 2021
- First ever city-wide survey regarding childcare challenges and needs
- Report of findings available at boston.gov/women

This project was designed:
- to uncover families’ child care preferences,
- identify the factors that drive these preferences, and
- learn how families are handling work and child care issues during the pandemic

Report is available at boston.gov/women
Results from the 2019 Survey

The cost of childcare is a top concern for families in our sample, regardless of which neighborhood they live in.

- 86% of respondents listed “Not affordable” as a childcare challenge

Access to childcare is a major concern for families in our sample.

- 45% of respondents said childcare was either too far or too difficult to find

Women in our sample reported childcare as a challenge to entering/re-entering the workforce.

- Almost 1/3 of respondents who stay home to care for their children said they needed/wanted to work
Upcoming Research

Results from the 2021 Childcare Census:

- Full report will be released late Fall.
- Initial analysis indicates that:
  - Families are currently not in the childcare arrangements that fit their wants or needs.
  - Parent/guardian caretakers in our sample are overwhelmingly dissatisfied with their current arrangements, interfering with their career desires, especially for women.

The Early Education Professionals Workforce Survey:

- The aim is to characterize Boston’s early education and care workforce and inform policy and investments to rebuild it.
- There are approximately 1,000 early educators in Boston. This project seeks to reach as many early educators as possible to be able to accurately describe the Boston early educator workforce.
WHO ARE BOSTON’S FAMILY CHILDCARE PROVIDERS?
- 90% Women
- 61% Women of Color
- 44% Immigrant
- Average Annual Income: $27,000

WHAT IS THE CHILDCARE ENTREPRENEUR FUND?
- Supports family childcare providers
- $3,500 grant
- 6 business skills workshops
- Cohort for collaboration and support

In 2 years, we have trained 20% of the Family Childcare owners in Boston and awarded $346,500 in grants. This fiscal year, we will be able to train another 20% and award $374,500 in grants from City funds.
$2 MILLION IN FUNDS ALLOCATED TO:

- Train childcare providers to conduct developmental screenings

- Support the childcare workforce with hiring bonuses and retention grants

- Marketing and technology training and grants for family childcare businesses
$250K GRANT FUND FROM THE BPDA

- Grants provide child care facilities, and/or expand existing child care services
- RFP sought a broad range of solutions to childcare supply problem, and we received many creative ideas

SEVEN GRANTEES WERE SELECTED

- 3 citywide programs
- 4 neighborhood-based locations including Dorchester, East Boston, Jamaica Plain (neighborhoods with high access gaps)
- Variety of organization types (3 nonprofits supporting childcare sector, 2 childcare centers, 2 family childcare programs)

GRANTEE PROJECTS WILL:

- Create at least 297 new childcare seats in the City of Boston
- Offer childcare during nontraditional hours
- Train and place assistants in Family Childcare programs
- Recruit and train new Family Childcare business owners
- Construct new childcare centers
- Support family, friend and neighbor caregivers
Listening Session

Breakout Rooms
**Discussion Questions**

**Your experience and feedback**
- Which of the points/gaps from the presentation resonate with you? What did we miss?
- What are the main barriers to access for existing programs and services?

**Your Ideas**
- Are there any childcare workforce support programs you have seen or heard about that you wish Boston would implement?
- Are there any City-run or other programs that we should consider expanding?
Conclusion - What We Heard
Next Steps

- Spread the word about the other #LetsGoBetter meetings
  - Other meetings on homeownership, small businesses, immigrant advancement, and the arts.
- You can also email us any follow up questions at [recover@boston.gov](mailto:recover@boston.gov)