

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Champaign County Board

and

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to utilize in perpetuity the facility located at 2005-2007 Round Barn Road, Champaign, IL purchased by Champaign County for the provision of long-term early childhood education services.

Background

Champaign County is the grant recipient of federal Head Start and Early Head Start funding from the Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Champaign County is also the grant recipient of Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion funding from the Illinois State Board of Education. The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission administers the Head Start, Early Head Start and Preschool for All grants on behalf of Champaign County. The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission has been administering the federal Head Start program in Champaign County since 1994.

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission's Early Childhood Education program needs to relocate five of its classrooms currently located within Champaign Community Unit School District 4's Champaign Early Childhood Center on North Neil Street. The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission has provided early childhood education services from that location under a 20-year lease agreement with Unit 4 which terminates in June 2023. The five preschool classrooms from that location will be transferred to the recently leased center located on 103 S. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL. As a result, all of the Early Head Start classrooms located at 103 S. Country Fair Drive will need to be relocated to a separate, new location.

To that end, the Champaign County Board approved the FY22 appropriation and disbursement of \$2.0M from its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation for the purchase of an early childhood center at 2005-2007 Round Barn Road, Champaign, IL. The total one-time ARPA allocation of \$2.0M will be matched with Regional Planning Commission funds in the amount of \$500K representing a 20% contribution to the total acquisition cost. The proposed center was utilized as a former school for developmentally disabled children. As such, it requires minor repairs to appropriately develop classroom space for infants and toddlers ages zero to three.

Purpose

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission will operate the Early Head Start program at the facility purchased by Champaign County located at 2005-2007 Round Barn Road. The proposed facility will have eight fully equipped classrooms, a commercial kitchen, fully compliant indoor and outdoor play areas, family meeting space, and will be responsive to the defined needs of the community for early childhood programming. The 10,368 SF facility will meet all federal Early Head Start and state DCFS regulatory requirements. The Regional Planning Commission will be

responsible for annual operating costs including utilities, repairs, maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, insurance, and security. This one-time investment will serve the Champaign community and positively impact over 8,000 families currently in poverty over the next 40 years.

The ARPA Final Rule specified that funds could be used to address educational disparities through new or expanded early learning services and to promote healthy childhood environments, including new or expanded high quality childcare facilities. The U.S. Treasury Department has allowed for an expanded set of capital expenditures under the Final Rule. The intent is to offset gaps in response to the negative impacts of the pandemic and to provide generated benefits beyond the period of performance.

Duration

This MOU represents the mutual agreement between the Champaign County Board and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission of the intent to provide a rent-free early childhood center in perpetuity for the provision of expanded high quality early learning services. The MOU recognizes the restricted use of the dedicated center and the expectation that all operational costs, infrastructure improvements, repairs, and maintenance will be the sole responsibility of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

This MOU is at-will and may be amended by written mutual consent of authorized officials from Champaign County and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. This MOU reflects the rule and intent of federal ARPA funding to provide a one-time investment to address educational disparities through expanded early learning capacity in Champaign County. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from Champaign County and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual written agreement.

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Signature

Sept 23, 2022

Date

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Signature

9/23/2022

Date