

RFP Review

Created for the May 4, 2022 MAC Meeting

These comments were copied from reviewer's score sheets and are meant to provide an overview of each RFP and a chance for Mansfield Advocates for Children, our School Readiness Council, to be made aware of this input.

UConn Child Development Laboratories – 125/125

- Great job on most recent inspection. There were limited identified issues and they were remediated.
- DQSM's meet the 2029 requirements.
- There is a plan with specific goals to target new families likely to be at or below 75% SMI.
- Targeted advertising was used to reach populations that may benefit from the sliding fee scale.
- The narrative states that specific outreach is made to areas/locations where families at or below 75% SMI may be able to be reached.
- Two of the preschool teachers and the director are certified in early childhood special education.
- Multiple collaborations noted with variety of supports and opportunities available.
- Class size does not exceed 18 children. Maintains ratios with staff; additional adult supports present with student interns.
- Curriculum and assessments done frequently and aligned with ELDS.
- Ongoing assessment with ELDS and DOTS in collaboration with families.
- Their plan for student evaluation is extensive and thoroughly applies to the instruction plans and developmental assessment of each child.
- Schedule is consistent and predictable but still flexible schedule implementation to support transitions between tasks based on ongoing learning and engagement.
- This center provides an excellent variety of programming and resources for families.
- Through their association with UConn, their staff have advanced degrees, with the addition of practicum student teachers throughout the semester.
- RFP was well organized and easy to read.
- Good narrative descriptions.
- Family handbook was very lengthy and had a high reading level so the program may wish to consider this for future revisions.

Community Children's Center – 120/125

- DQSM's meet the 2029 requirements.
- Programs should be commended on their staff qualifications and meeting QSM requirements.
- Consistent advertising to prospective and currently enrolled families to recruit those at or below 75% SMI.

- The plan to recruit families at or below 75% SMI includes steps to reach children and families who are in contact with the center but does not clearly articulate how outreach will reach new families.
- Variety of robust and meaningful collaborations, meeting multiple developmental needs and community connectivity.
- Collaborations are adequate, however the program lists other collaborations that they engage in (i.e. Kloter Farms) so it appears that the collaborations are robust but could be documented more.
- The center's membership in the Natural Start Alliance and certification as an Eco-Healthy Child Care center are significant benefit for their children and families.
- Multiple points of collaboration and accommodations for children with special needs.
- Nice narrative addressing multiple diverse needs and how they are supported in the program.
- Great use of resource dollars to improve pandemic mitigation strategies, including thoughtful and intentional use of additional outdoor time and space.
- Smaller than recommended class sizes.
- Emergent and responsive curriculum content that is developed to actively engage youth with staff training to ELDS guidelines for alignment.
- Multiple instances of parent and program based observational assessments identified. Staff trained in pertinent systems of assessments.
- Program calendar is just a list of holidays, not a calendar.
- Daily schedule provides child-driven opportunities for multi-modal play including wide variety and choice for individual, peer-to-peer, and teacher led learning.
- The written plan includes "Group or Story time" multiple times but does not define how these times will be utilized to meet children's development.
- During the pandemic, they pivoted their programming to include more time in outdoor spaces. This effort includes the update of a shed on the property, which will be used to store additional materials and supplies for outdoor play.

Mansfield Discovery Depot – 103/125

- All noted issues on most recent inspection report were remediated.
- There are more than 3 violations in the Physical Plant section of the licensing report. Also, one of the corrections was to prohibit children from running in the back playground. I am not familiar with the layout but it seems counterproductive to prevent running on a playground.
- Registry and staff assignments complete.
- Meets the current DQSM requirements, 89% meet the 2025 requirements.
- Limited plan for identifying families at or below 75% SMI beyond families self-identifying to center or SR Liaison. No specific center plan for recruitment.
- A vague plan because they do the income verification once the family is referred to the program. However, their method of recruitment is "families are identified by the Early Childhood Services Coordinator" and referred to the program. The program does not indicate any efforts at doing recruitment on their own.
- Multiple and various collaborations identified.

- There are collaborations with public schools and Birth to Three for identified service needs for inclusion of children with diverse needs.
- Program calendar is just a list of holidays, not a calendar.
- Additional and ongoing activities identified including a possible summer camp expansion to serve needs of families.
- The “Day Without Childcare” collaboration was an outstanding program, but no other collaboration was described.
- Really great summer camp plans!
- It would be helpful to know the number or percentage of parents that use the new engagement app.
- The larger classes have 18:2 and the smaller are 9:1.
- Emergent curriculum used in alignment with ELDS to be child-driven; ongoing planning and training opportunities identified.
- Planning and coaching for ELDS and DOTS assessment systems identified.
- Variety of activities and learning modalities identified in schedule.
- The center provides a good variety of additional programs for families including Early Literacy learning libraries, nutrition assistance, and Literacy Night.
- Staff attended extensive training on standards, curriculum and assessment.
- They were local leaders in a collaborative effort to support the statewide “Day Without Childcare” advocacy.

Mount Hope Montessori School – 95/125

- There were more than a few issues on the most recent inspection report. They were all noted and issues were remediated. The outdoor play area is pending due to weather/snow.
- There seemed to be a large list of violations of varying degrees on the inspection report. While all of them appeared to be remediated, this may be something to monitor closely.
- There is a plan for NAEYC accreditation outlined.
- Mount Hope Montessori School is in the process of applying for NAEYC accreditation. Once completed, they will offer children a strong combination of child-centered educational methods. It is clear that this center is both seeking to enhance their current offerings and grow the number of available spaces for new students.
- The registry and staff assignments are up to date.
- Current DQSM requirements met.
- Multi-point advertisement of SR participants and income eligibility. Resource fair participation to target and recruit families at or below 75% SMI.
- Multiple and various meaningful collaborations identified.
- They promote literacy through several program, including the Youth Services’ Book Buddies and a curriculum that includes journal writing.
- Inclusion of children with diverse needs: previous needs accommodated and plan to engage appropriate supports for emerging future needs.
- Offers a summer care program.
- Montessori curriculum and approach with ELDS knowledge and application.

- Program follows Montessori method – but identifies that many of the same general principles and concepts are shared with CT ELDS and DOTS. The program indicates that they will be documenting alignment in the future.
- As a Montessori school seeking NAEYC accreditation, this center offers a unique combination of educational methods.
- Use of ELDS standards and DOTS for ongoing assessment of progress.
- Variety of modalities for learning throughout the daily schedule.
- Budget workbook could have more clear in regards to salary listings.
- Program should be commended for it's commitment to the Montessori method, and to the community.
- The handbook and info is geared towards a higher reading level.