

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: July 25, 2014
Subject: Letter of Support for Jackson County Civic Action Committee's Application for an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant

REQUEST:

The Jackson County Civic Action Committee (JCCAC) has requested a letter of support from the Gautier City Council for the JCCAC's application for a federally funded Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership Grant.

BACKGROUND:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has announced the availability of approximately \$500 million to be competitively awarded for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families through Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships. New or existing Early Head Start Programs will partner with local center-based and family child care providers and, through activities including training and technical assistance, management, and the delivery of comprehensive services, support them in meeting the Early Head Start Program Performance Standards.

DISCUSSION:

If awarded, this five-year funding opportunity would enable the JCCAC to provide high quality early learning experiences to at least 72 additional infants and toddlers per year in Jackson County. Several child care centers and family daycare homes in Gautier are interested in partnering with the JCCAC in this initiative. In addition to increasing the availability of child care slots for children birth to three, these proposed partnerships would improve the quality of existing child care facilities and would create new jobs needed to meet the Early Head Start Standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department recommends that City Council provide a letter of support for the Jackson County Civic Action Committee's grant application as requested.

The City Council may:

1. authorize submission of the attached letter of support for the JCCAC's grant application;
2. authorize submission of the attached letter of support with revisions; or
3. decline to offer a letter of support.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter of Support for Jackson County Civic Action Committee's grant application (draft)

Mayor
Gordon F. Gollott

City of Gautier

Gautier, Mississippi

City Manager
Samantha D. Abell

City Clerk
Cynthia Russell

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Council
At Large Mary F. Martin
Ward 1 Johnny Jones
Ward 2 Hurley Ray Guillotte
Ward 3 Casey C. Vaughan
Ward 4 Charles "Rusty" Anderson
Ward 5 Adam D. Colledge



August 6, 2014

Diann Payne, Executive Director
Jackson County Civic Action Committee
Post Office Box 8723
Moss Point, Mississippi 39562

Draft

RE: Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Payne:

On behalf of the City of Gautier, I would like to offer this letter of support for the Jackson County Civic Action Committee's (JCCAC) application for a five-year Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant through the Administration for Children and Families. The purpose of this funding is to expand access to high-quality, comprehensive services for low-income infants and toddlers and their families. We understand that the JCCAC is proposing to partner with several child care centers and family daycare homes in Jackson County to offer a full range of comprehensive services to children from birth to three, and that several child care facilities located within the Gautier city limits are planning to participate in this partnership.

The City of Gautier is currently preparing for the development of a new mall in our Town Center and the building of a large medical complex. Young families in our area need high quality child care, and we applaud your efforts to provide additional child care slots for young children and to improve the quality of local child care facilities through this proposed partnership. This is a unique opportunity for the Jackson County Civic Action Committee to expand its services to many more children throughout Jackson County in a variety of child care settings.

The City of Gautier is proud of the Jackson County Campus of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College located here in Gautier and appreciates that this proposed initiative could bring new jobs for the Early Childhood Education graduates from that program. High quality child care is important to economic development, and the City of Gautier commends your organization for pursuing this grant opportunity and your ongoing work to ensure that all children are prepared for success.

Sincerely,

Gordon Gollott, Mayor

"Nature's Playground!"