ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an application to the Administration for Children and Families for an additional waiver of matching funds for Head Start and Early Head Start

BACKGROUND:
The Administration for Children and Families funds 80 percent of the total operating cost of Head Start grants. The remaining 20 percent must come from in-kind donations or matching funds from the community. These in-kind or contributions must come from non-federal sources and must support necessary, reasonable and allowable costs for operating the program to be counted toward the 20 percent match. These contributions are generally in the form of volunteer services, donated or loaned equipment or space, donated supplies, land or buildings.

Because MARC’s Mid-America Head Start program does not provide direct services, it is challenging to identify sources for the grantee match. The Office of Head Start recognizes the increasing difficulty posed by this requirement for all Head Start grantees and offers programs the option of requesting a waiver when they are unable to attain the full 20 percent match.

The Board previously approved application funds for the final year of MARC’s previous five-year HS/EHS grant, but a separate application is required for the three-month extension (August to October 2018) before the new five-year grant was awarded. For these three months, the required federal match was $1,804,313. MAHS has identified contributions totaling $1,546,062, leaving a balance due of $258,251. MAHS is therefore seeking a waiver from the Administration for Children and Families for this remaining balance.

MAHS has successfully sought similar waivers in the past, but new regulations now require board approval.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:
None

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve Mid-America Head Start’s request to the Administration for Children and Families for a waiver of the remaining balance of the required non-federal match for the August-October 2018 Head Start/Early Head Start grant in the amount of $258,251.

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