

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Jesse DiTommaso, Economic Development Coordinator
Brit Fontenot, Economic Development Director

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Grant Agreement with Greater Gallatin United Way for the Kinside Child Care Platform

MEETING DATE: August 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to sign a grant agreement with Greater Gallatin United Way for the Kinside Child Care Platform.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 2.3 Workforce Development: Support education and workforce development initiatives to improve the skills of our citizens.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman's adopted Economic Vitality Strategy highlights the importance of child care as critical infrastructure for a healthy local economy. A shortage of accessible child care can negatively impact the economy by creating workforce instability, as parents are forced to reduce hours or leave jobs due to lack of care options. Businesses are directly impacted by instability in the child care sector. The US Chamber of Commerce estimates businesses lose \$57 billion annually nationwide due to child care related absenteeism. Accessible child care can reduce stress on families, businesses, and the local economy.

To address some of the economic impacts of inaccessible child care, the City of Bozeman supported the CHILD task force strategic plan. Goal 2 of the CHILD Task Force Strategic Plan is to support, complement, and expand upon what currently exists. A key strategy to accomplishing Goal 2, is establishing and implementing a Gallatin County Waitlist Program for use by care providers, families, and businesses. A county-wide waitlist program will provide families with real-time slot availability while also helping child care providers maximize their enrollment capacity. The program manager, housed at Greater Gallatin United Way, will assist child care providers, businesses, and parents with a child care business management software that will allow providers to upload details about their facility as well as availability. Parents can then use the software to find a child care that best fits their needs. When a family finds a child care, they will be automatically removed from the list. This streamlines the process of finding child care, removes inefficiencies, increase transparency, and ensures that available lots do not go unused.

The [portal](#) was launched in 2025 and has seen significant use throughout the community. Forty-three licensed child care providers within the Bozeman city limits have claimed profiles and 185 parents within the Bozeman city limits have used the search function for child care.

The City Commission identified continuing to fund a portion of the portal as part of a larger strategic priority to address affordability in the community. The Economic Development Department's budget request for FY2027 included costs for a portion of the child care portal.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As recommended by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: \$25,000

Attachments:

[26 - Grant Agreement - Great Gallatin United Way - Child Care Waitlist Portal.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: July 23, 2026