

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION
AUGUST 6, 2024 AGENDA**

<p>Subject:</p> <p>Authorization of a grant sub-ward to Little Rock School District to implement Language Environment and Analysis (LENA) Professional Development at Geyer Springs Early Childhood Center.</p> <p>Submitted By:</p> <p>Office of Executive Administration</p>	<p>Action Required:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ordinance √ Resolution</p>	<p>Approved By:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Emily Cox Acting City Manager</p>
<p>SYNOPSIS</p> <p>FISCAL IMPACT</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>BACKGROUND</p>	<p>A resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Little Rock School District for the sub-award of Grant Funds from Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood.</p> <p>The full grant amount that the City received is \$150,000.00; the sub-award amount from the City to the Little Rock School District is \$60,000.00, and will be allocated from Account No. G15P231.</p> <p>Approval of the resolution.</p> <p>In 2023, the City of Little Rock was designated as an Early Childhood Education Local Lead by the Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood. In this role, the City is working to improve access and affordability to quality early childhood education.</p> <p>Language Environment and Analysis (LENA), a professional development tool focused on teacher/child interaction, measures the number of interactions between children and adult caregivers throughout their day.</p>	

**BACKGROUND
CONTINUED**

Teachers learn how to interact more responsively and equitably with the children in their classroom so that each child can build a foundation for language and literacy.

The City received \$150,000.00 from the Arkansas Department of Education for year one of the Early Childhood Education Local Lead commitment. The City will make a sub-award, in the amount of \$60,000.00, to the Little Rock School District for the implementation of LENA for sixteen (16) classrooms at Geyer Springs Early Childhood Center.

The remainder of the grant funds will be used to provide support for the State's new Quality Rating System, a communications campaign to promote the importance of Early Childhood Education and additional program materials for early childhood providers.