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Pilot Project Expands Child Care Opportunities and Access in Josephine County

A pilot project designed to address the ongoing child care shortage in Josephine County is already seeing early success.

With the support of this pilot program, one new child care business has been launched and one child care business has expanded their capacity to serve more children. This initiative brings together funding, training, technical assistance to help individuals start or expand licensed child care businesses.

The effort is made possible through a collaboration between Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS), Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) and Rogue Community College's Small Business Development Center. Together, these organizations provide a comprehensive pathway for aspiring providers to receive support in licensing, business development and program set-up.

Applicants follow a structure path that includes training, site visits, working with licensing and one-on-one coaching. Once licensed, providers are expected to begin serving families within 45 days and commit to at least two years of operation. SOELS also monitors progress and provides continued support for quality improvement and family satisfaction.

Business grant contributions from the SOREDI Foundation and the City of Grants Pass have helped new or expanding businesses in Josephine County with purchasing equipment, furniture and supplies. Their funding contributions have supported two applicants already, with the goal to support up to five child care businesses.

Interested individuals can contact Karen Ramorino at "kramoniro@roguecc.edu."
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