

# Child Care Access and Affordability: Successes, Immediate and Future Plans

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Results from SY22-24

ONE  
**Somerville**  
EVERY **child**

# The Collaboration Team:



Somerville Promise



**Somerville Family  
Learning Collaborative**



ONE  
Somerville  
EVERY child

# Agenda:

1. Current Progress on the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program
2. Immediate opportunities
3. Future plans

# Current Progress

# Child Care Access and Affordability Updates

- **94 children** received tuition assistance from the CCAA program at **six partner centers in Somerville.**
- **50 children** were referred to the Head Start program through engagement with the SomerPromise office.
- **178** children received full day summer programming through Summer of YES through partnership with SPS, Parks and Recreation and **9** Community Partners

# Immediate Opportunities

# Child Care Consultants

EST. Timeline April-November 2024

## NEED:

- Somerville needs a cohesive plan for increasing access to high quality & affordable child care.

## PROPOSAL:

- \$50,000 budgeted for 1 consultant focusing on full-day care (infant to pre-K)
- \$50,000 budgeted for 1 consultant focusing on Out of School Time care (K to 5)

## OUTCOME:

- A **coordinated cross-sector plan for local systemic investments** to position Somerville for future initiatives.

# Summer of YES Expansion

**EST Timeline: March-August 2024**

## **NEED:**

- Increased summer programming; support of our traditional summer partners.
- SOY model change to singular provider through SPS creates need to support community partners in Summer.

## **PROPOSAL:**

- \$70,000 to support programming for 70 additional summer slots, with support of our traditional community-based partners coordinated by Parks and Rec.

## **OUTCOME:**

- 70 additional full-time summer slots available for families.
- Community partners continue to collaborate with City departments.





# Early Head Start Expansion

**EST Timeline: May-August 2024**

## **NEED:**

- Riverside Early Head Start currently provides **home visiting** services to 80 new parents and toddlers. They'd like to explore **classroom-based** services, which would increase subsidized child care slots for Somerville.

## **PROPOSAL:**

- \$15,000 for a consultant to provide recommendations for moving from home-based to classroom-based services.

## **OUTCOME:**

- A major community partner on infant and toddler services will be better prepared to support the City's goal to increase child care access.

# Workforce Development & Retention

**STATUS: May-November 2024**

## **NEED:**

- Many child care providers are attempting to offer benefits to staff, such as health insurance. The high cost of benefits for small programs is a consistent barrier to retaining the child care workforce.

## **PROPOSAL:**

- \$50,000 for a consultant to support workforce development in child care centers and family child cares in Somerville through collective benefits acquisition.

## **OUTCOME:**

- A consultant can improve the benefits climate for child care providers through consultation and development of shared benefits services.

# Future Ideas

# C3 Grant – Gap Closure

**EST Timeline: May-December 24**

**NEED:** Child Care centers were awarded monthly grants from the EEC starting in 2020, but cuts are being made from May to December. This prevents programs from planning and puts many child care centers in jeopardy.

**PROPOSAL:** We will provide in full the supplemental funds to centers to continue supporting staff salaries and benefits.

**COST:** We have reached out to EEC to get the exact figures for the cost of this project.

# Digital Bridge for Child Care Providers

**EST Timeline: June-August 24**

**NEED:** Child Care providers are in need of training and technological skill building courses. This is consistently a need we hear from providers.

**PROPOSAL:** We would like to partner with the Mystic Learning Center and the Welcome Project to implement a training course, provide ongoing support and supply each participant with relevant technology, offered to child care providers.

This will build upon the “Free Wifi Initiative” as well as other Digital Bridge initiatives at the Mystic. Future iterations will incorporate Clarendon.

# Out of School Time Transportation

**EST Timeline: July-December 2024**

**NEED:** Out of School Time activities happen all across the City in various public and private spaces. Currently, only families available to transport their children from school to OST activities can take advantage of these programs unless they are offered in the child's school. Additionally, half day Wednesdays presents a consistent gap in child care for parents.

**INITIATIVE:** We would like to partner with local agencies to incentivize them to invest in transportation through a transportation grant program. Both internal City Departments and local agencies would be eligible for the funds, with a strong desire to partner with SCM Transportation.

**PROPOSAL:** \$200,000.00 to support the transportation of children to OST activities safely and continue learning when school is not in session.

# Appendix

# Child Care Access and Affordability Updates

## CHILD CARE TUITION ASSISTANCE

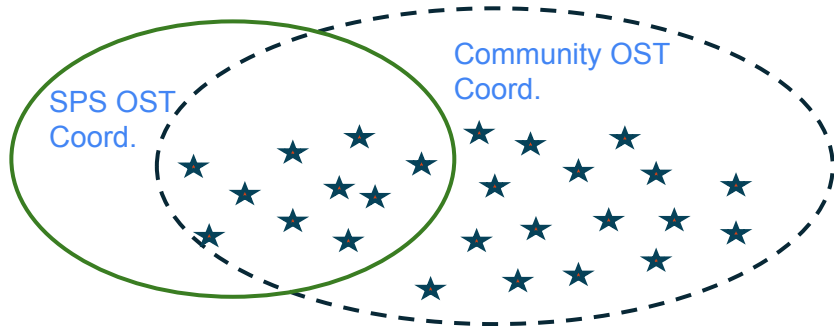
- 87% of participants who responded to the survey said that participating in the program increased their likelihood of staying in Somerville.

Reported Family Benefits of Participation	
<b>Financial stability</b>	<b>67.7%</b>
Food Security	25.8%
Housing Security	19.4%
<b>Less Stress</b>	<b>83.9%</b>

“ This opportunity has allowed for me to keep my daughter in daycare during an extremely difficult time. I’m able to work full time and provide for us while navigating becoming a single mother and advancing my career. I’m so fortunate to have been selected for this program, you really changed our lives - you have no idea! ”



Child & Youth System Map						
Baby	Preschool	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	Young Adults	Sample Responsibilities
<b>Child Care Coordinator</b> Provider-facing work. Supports the mixed delivery system of high-quality early childhood education through resource sharing and collaboration with providers						Fosters relationships with child care centers and family child cares to provide workforce development; provides guidance in developmental screenings; supports business management and training.
		<b>Community OST Coordinator</b> Provider-facing work. Focus on building capacity of OST providers to improve quality and expand access to non-SPS OST programming.				With OST Task Force, co-creates a shared measure of program quality amongst member providers; providers sign on to measuring and meeting quality goal; families using multiple providers see consistent quality of care
		<b>SPS OST Coordinator</b> Family, school, and provider facing work. Coordinates OST programming within and across the school system for SPS K-12 students. Limited capacity for access to programming.				Contracts with a subset of OST providers for Community Schools and other school-based programs  Built with a paired Community OST Coordinator position in mind
		<b>Youth Services Director</b> Support development and equitable access to youth services across City departments, school system, and community.				Teen Shoveling Program, Mayor's Summer Jobs, and more



SPS OST Coord. contracts with providers to serve SPS youth and provide programming *at SPS*; limited scope of SPS students and SPS hours.

Community OST Coord. works with *all* providers in the city to provide professional development, set quality standards, set collective goals, etc.

★ = service provider

# The SomerPromise Department

## Roles and Personnel



### DIRECTOR OF SOMERPROMISE

**Chris Hosman**

The Director identifies opportunities to support children from cradle to career through cross-sector partnerships between the City, School and community partners. mixed delivery system of solutions.



### CHILD CARE ACCESS COORDINATOR

**Ashley Zsofka**

The CCA Coordinator supports our mixed delivery system of high quality early childhood education through resource sharing and collaboration with child care providers, serving ages infancy to 5 years old.

### WRAPAROUND SERVICES MANAGER

**Lara Versari**

The Wraparound Services Manager identifies barriers to program access and supports expanded programming facilitated directly by the Navigators and Home Visitors.



### OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COORDINATOR

The OST Coordinator facilitates relationships between the City, Schools, and Community Partners to ensure safe care for children outside of school.



### SOMERPROMISE COORDINATOR

**Madeleine Werner**

The SomerPromise Coordinator provides technical support on data analysis and program management. Additionally, they develop and update the Somerville Hub and the City's Single Point of Entry System.



### YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCE NAVIGATOR 1 & 2

The Resource Navigators provide direct service to eliminate barriers and referrals families to resources. One navigator will focus on Early Childhood, and the other on School Age children.

### SOMERBABY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**Flor Apolaya**

The SomerBaby Home Visitors provide educational resources, baby supplies, and referrals for new families in Somerville through a multilingual home visiting program. They also facilitate parent education groups, playgroups and support other cross-sector home visiting programs in the city.



**Maria Holz**

## Three new roles:

- OST Coordinator  
Coordination and Cross-Sector Management
- Youth and Family Resource Navigators  
Direct Service Providers
  - Early Childhood and Education
  - School-Age Children

## Updates to Staffing