

June 14, 2022

Grant Review Committee
c/o Mr. Austin Tuttle
Department of Human Services
Colorado Department of Human Services
1575 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Grant Review Committee,

This letter is to acknowledge that the Routt County Board of County Commissioners is in support of the Steamboat Ski Resort & Corporation (SSRC) request for grant funds from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood Education to create and open an additional childcare facility in Routt County, helping provide a much-needed resource in our community.

According to First Impressions, Routt County has 550 children from birth to three years old whose parents work and only 94 spots available in licensed childcare facilities. Overall, there are 1,500 youth under the age of five who have two parents in the workforce in the Yampa Valley, but childcare is available to only 60 percent.

We believe that by opening a new employee-based childcare facility, SSRC, one of the county's largest employees, is sending a clear message to our community that families, and early childhood education, are a priority for our region. It is also our hope that SSRC will help elevate the wages and benefits for all childcare teachers and aid our community by setting a higher standard for their childcare staff.

It takes an entire community to support the growth and development of its youth, and we applaud SSRC for using its platform as a community leader to prioritize employees and their families. We recommend that you award the full amount of the Employer-Based Child Care Facility Grant to SSRC and help support the county's efforts to make early childhood education and care a reality for our community.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting Routt County.

Respectfully,
Routt County Board of County Commissioners

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair