

# Town of Acton Childcare Subsidy Program



LAURA DUCHARME  
MMAHSC SPRING MEETING  
APRIL, 28, 2022

# Acton Community Services



- Community Services Coordinator position created in 2009 after a Citizen's passed at Town Meeting
- Currently a Department of one staff
- Services provided include short and long term case management, resource and referral, crisis intervention and application assistance for public benefits

# Regional Childcare Grant



- Collaborative effort with Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard & Westford
- Community Development Block Grant-CV Cares Act-37 children served
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development-Pilot childcare subsidy program-28 children served
- Ability to serve families who traditionally ineligible for childcare vouchers

# Voucher Programs



## DEEC Childcare Vouchers

- 50% AMI
- Long waitlist
- Many families allowed vouchers to lapse during COVID
- Unable to use vouchers for remote learning programs

## CDBG Childcare Subsidies

- 80% AMI
- \$95,000 for a family of four
- Work, training or seeking employment
- Started with \$3k birth-preschool and \$2k for school age. Grants could not exceed \$5k per child
- Could be used towards the cost of remote learning programs

# Program Logistics



- Families complete an application and provide income documentation and proof of residency
- Provider completes an application along with proof of Liability Insurance and submits W-9
- Families can choose any home daycare or center based DEEC licensed provider
- Specialty camps or programs such as karate and horseback riding are ineligible
- Ability to pause subsidy (ex. end of school year)

# Program Logistics Continued



- Subsidies could be used to defray the cost of Extend Day
- Full Day Kindergarten tuition fees could be covered through the MOBD
- Providers submit monthly billing/attendance sheets
- Payment processed through warrant schedule

# Program Continuity



- Select Board has allocated \$40k in ARPA funds for subsidies in FY23 and FY24
- Program guidelines will follow the CDBG subsidy model
- Provides post-COVID support to families transitioning back to the work force or schooling
- Financial support for the School Department and Recreation Department as well as local childcare providers