Grant Information and Criteria

Grant Application Deadline
Postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2019. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the last week of March 2019. Please email application and all supporting documentation to echo@nwf.org. If mailing or delivering the application, please use: National Wildlife Federation, 303 E. 17th Ave., #230, Denver, CO 80203.

Applications must be typed and supporting documentation must be labeled clearly. Please submit only the application. Please do not include the first three pages of informational documents.

Contact Information

For questions about the ECHO, please contact:
Sarah Konradi, ECHO Program Director, National Wildlife Federation
Email: konradiS@nwf.org Phone: 303-441-5140

For assistance with the application or general questions, please contact:
Adrienne Sedlak, ECHO Education and Outreach Manager, National Wildlife Federation
Email: sedlakA@nwf.org Phone: 303-441-5145

ECHO is a partnership between the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Learning Initiative.

This opportunity is generously supported by The Colorado Health Foundation and the Gates Family Foundation and the Dr. Scholl Foundation.
About the Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO)
Healthy. Natural. Affordable. These are the foundations of Colorado’s new Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) Initiative. And this is what ECHO is designed to accomplish:

All young children in Colorado have daily access to quality outdoor learning environments where play and learning support development across all domains—cognitive, physical, social, and emotional.

ECHO is based on a decade of research by North Carolina State University’s Natural Learning Initiative on the Preventing Obesity by Design model. This research showed that by improving the design of outdoor spaces through affordable interventions and training early childhood professionals, young children and early childhood programs enjoy substantial benefits:
• Children are more physically active in the outdoors and engage in social interactions more often.
• Children, and providers enjoy naturalized outdoor spaces, and spend more time outside, supporting healthy behaviors.
• Hands-on gardening encourages the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables.
• Parents are more likely to linger at child care programs, improving community experience.

To learn more about ECHO, please visit http://www.nwf.org/echo.

Seed Grant Sites
Seed Grants will be offered to licensed child care centers or preschools and publicly accessible sites to improve their outdoor learning environments. Through a competitive application process, Seed Grant Sites receive design assistance via a full-day, hands-on Interactive Design Workshop resulting in a schematic plan. Each awarded site will receive a $5,000 grant and technical assistance to aid in naturalizing their outdoor learning environments. Through a competitive process, Seed Grant Sites are selected as follows: a) 25 sites were selected in Spring 2018; and b) at least 26 sites will be selected in Spring 2019.

ECHO Seed Grant Sites are open to for-profit and non-profit licensed child care centers or preschools serving children under the age of five that meet the following minimum criteria:
1. A minimum Colorado Shines Level 1 rating. License must be in good standing with the State of Colorado.
2. Commit to naturalizing the outdoor learning environment, including conducting gardening on-site.

Preference is given to programs that serve vulnerable families and children, which can be demonstrated by meeting any of the following criteria:
• Demonstration of economic need for population served (e.g., percent of families eligible for need-based child care subsidies in the county, level of participation in Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), number of low-income families that may be experiencing housing or food insecurity)
• Serving a diverse population, including a high percentage of ethnic and racial diversity
• Serving children who are English language learners
• Serving children with disabilities or special health care needs
Required Commitments for Seed Grant Sites:
- Attend one full-day Interactive Design Workshop led by the ECHO Design team. Locations and dates will be based on selected sites.
- Be available for consultation from ECHO Design Team (e.g., measurements, photographs, etc.).
- Identify one individual to complete the “Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children” online certificate program. Registration is offered at no cost.
- Participate in evaluation in partnership with ECHO Partners.
- Send representative(s) to at least one training at a local or regional Demonstration Site.
- Participate in a shared network of learning with all ECHO sites.

Encouraged Commitments for Seed Grant Sites:
- Participation in an ECHO Summit in 2019.

Please note, if you are selected as a finalist, a video conference call may be required. The Selection Committee will reach out to finalists as needed to schedule.
Spring 2019: Seed Grant Site Application
FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS AND PRESCHOOLS

Required attachments in addition to a completed application:
- Copy of a legible and current license issued by the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Office of Early Childhood (dated January 2019 or later)
- Photos of your current outdoor learning environment

Section One: Organizational Information

Contact Information:
Name of Program: __________________________________________________________
Name of Director: __________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________
City: _____________________________________________________________________
Zip Code: _____________________ County: ________________________________
Employer Identification Number (EIN): ____________________________
Name of Contact Person (if different than the Director): __________________________
Role of Contact Person: ____________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________________________________
Physical Site Address (If different from mailing address):
City: _____________________________ Zip Code: ________________________________
Enrollment:
Licensed Capacity: ________________  Current Total Enrollment: ____________________
Infants: ________________  Toddlers: ________________
Preschoolers: ________________  School age: _____________

Site Details:
Child Care License Number: ________________
License Type:
  □ Child Care Center
  □ Preschool
Colorado Shines Level (check one):
  □ 1
  □ 2
  □ 3
  □ 4
  □ 5
Year Opened: ________________  Years in Operation: ______________________________
How many years has the program been in its current location? _______________________
Do you lease or own? (check one)
  □ Lease
  □ Own
Can you guarantee your program will stay in the present location for at least five more years? (check one)
  □ Yes
  □ No
Number of months program is open during the year: ______________________________
If your facility is not open year-round, how will you manage your outdoor learning environment when your site is closed?
  Please type your response here.

Does your site have an approved, functional on-site kitchen to prepare food? (check one)
  □ Yes
  □ No
Have you received, or are you planning on applying for additional grant funding to make additional improvements to your outdoor space? (check one)

□ Yes
□ No

If yes, please share when you applied (or when you plan on applying), if you were awarded, how much were you awarded, and for what project:
Please type your response here.

Accreditations (example: NAEYC):
Please type your response here.

**Demographic Information:**

Center Auspice:

□ Profit
□ Non-profit
□ Head Start
□ School District

Do you accept families participating in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)? (check one)

□ Yes
□ No

If yes, number of children participating in CCCAP? ________________________________

How many children in your program do not have English as their primary language? ______

How many children in your program are experiencing homelessness? _________________

How many children in your program have special needs (including, but not limited to, having a disability, IFSP or IEP)? ____________________________________________________

How many children in your program would not identify as White, Non-Hispanic? ______

If these questions do not capture the diversity or uniqueness of your program, please describe here.
Please type your response here.
Staff:

Total number of staff employed at program: ________________________________

Number of administrators: ________________________________

Number of teachers: ______________________________________________________

Does your program currently work with a coach(es)? (check one)
☐ Yes
☐ No

Does your program work with a child care health consultant? (check one)
☐ Yes
☐ No

Does your program work with a mental health consultant? (check one)
☐ Yes
☐ No

Number of non-teaching staff and their roles (please list):

Please type your response here.
Section Two: Narratives

Responses are required for each of the three sections below. Please be concise in your responses. You will be limited to 500 words per narrative.

1. Explanation of Interest

Why are you interested in participating and serving as an ECHO Seed Grant Site? How will ECHO help meet the needs of your community?

   Please type your response here.
2. Explanation of Family/Community Engagement

What family, and/or community engagement efforts has your program been involved in previously? How do you plan on engaging your families and community in ECHO?

Please type your response here.

We recognize that the grant funding provided is not enough to cover the full costs of implementation. How do you plan to supplement the grant funding? Please share about your ability to fundraise, seek donations, and use existing funds to support the project.

Please type your response here.
Section Three: Signatures

By signing below, I hereby attest that everything included in this application is valid and true. I certify that the applicant organization is licensed and is in good standing with the State of Colorado. I understand that all expenditures made in conjunction with any grant award through this program must meet all applicable code and licensing requirements. I acknowledge that National Wildlife Federation may verify all information contained in this application, including, but not limited to, our facility’s licensing history and status.

*Please either hand sign the application and scan it, or complete the additional electronic signature box below including checking the box. Signatures from the Owner, CEO or Executive Director, and the individual completing the application are required.*

Name and title of Owner, CEO, or Executive Director (please print):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Owner, CEO, or Executive Director (Required):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Terms of Acceptance and Signature

I, the Owner, CEO, or Executive Director for this application, warrant the truthfulness of the information provided in this application.

Electronic Signature:

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please type your First and Last Name

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the above Terms of Acceptance.

Name and title of person completing application (please print):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature of person completing application (Required - typed or hand signed):

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Section Four: Commitments

Please check to confirm your understanding of commitments to be a 2019 ECHO Seed Grant Site (must be submitted with application):

☐ Attend one full-day Interactive Design Workshop led by the ECHO Design team. Locations and dates will be based on selected sites.
☐ Be available for consultation from ECHO Design Team (e.g., measurements, photographs, etc.).
☐ Identify one individual to complete the “Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children” online certificate program. Registration is offered at no cost.
☐ Participate in evaluation in partnership with ECHO Partners.
☐ Send representative(s) to at least one training at a local or regional Demonstration Site.
☐ Participate in a shared network of learning with all ECHO sites.

Section Five: Application Checklist

☐ Complete application with all required attachments including:
☐ Copy of legible and current program license issued by the Colorado Department of Human Services’ Office of Early Childhood (dated January 2019 or later)
☐ Photos of your current outdoor learning environment