



**ECHO**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS

In Partnership With  
Natural Learning Initiative

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS (ECHO): SPRING 2019 SEED GRANT SITE APPLICATION FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS AND PRESCHOOLS**

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### **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](mailto:echo@nwf.org). If mailing or delivering the application, please use: National Wildlife Federation, 303 E. 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**



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### 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?

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:

Accreditations (example: NAEYC):

**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.

**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):

## **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?



## **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?

### **3. Statement of Financial Means**

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.

### 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):

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

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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:

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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):

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

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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