



ECHO
EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS

In Partnership With
Natural Learning Initiative

EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS (ECHO): SPRING 2019 SEED GRANT SITE APPLICATION FOR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SITES

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.

Publicly Accessible Sites used by Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care

In an effort to ensure ECHO reaches all young children in Colorado, we are encouraging community sites such as community centers, nature centers, publicly accessible parks, libraries, and community playgrounds to apply to be a Seed Grant Site. Programs and locations that provide outdoor space that is used by birth to five-year-old children cared for by Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers are welcome to apply.

ECHO Seed Grant Sites will be open to publicly accessible sites that serve or attract families with young children, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Evidence of serving or potential to attract families with young children, including unlicensed Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) child care providers.
2. Evidence of serving or potential to serve vulnerable children and their families and child care providers.
3. Have a designated entity such as an agency, business, non-profit, dedicated staff, or established volunteers that will serve as the primary caretaker and community connector for the outdoor learning environment.
4. Own or lease current space for at least 5 years into the future.
5. Commit to creating and/or enhancing an outdoor learning environment, including naturalization of the site and gardening on-site.

Preference will be given to sites that:

1. Demonstrate a commitment from a community connector or partner agency that will seek to activate and encourage use of the site by the targeted population. If a language other than English is predominately spoken in the area, the agency should demonstrate expertise in communicating with community members in the predominant language.
2. Are accessible to the populations served on a year-round calendar.
3. Are located within walking or biking distance of low-income neighborhoods.
4. Are located at or near places that are perceived as safe, or welcoming to, mixed documentation status families.

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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SPRING 2019 SEED GRANT SITE APPLICATION FOR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SITES

Required attachments in addition to a completed application:

- Letter of support from owner of the space where the project will occur (unless the owner is completing the application)
- Photos of the current space including an aerial image of the area with location information (perimeter can be drawn on the image); Preferred aerial image: Google Earth Map of the site at a 200 and 500 scale

Section One: Project Information

Title of Proposed Project: _____

Site Street Address: _____

Site City: _____

Site Zip Code: _____

Site County: _____

Project Partners: _____

Section Two: Applicant Information

A. PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please use the information of "lead" municipality, county, special district, non-profit, organization, etc. The individual in this role will receive all correspondences regarding this application.

Name of Entity: _____

Designated Contact Person: _____

Role of Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Entity Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip code: _____ County: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

B. PARTNER INFORMATION

If applicable, please include information on the partners in the project.

Partner 1:

Name of Entity: _____

Contact Person: _____

Role of Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Entity Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

Partner 2:

Name of Entity: _____

Contact Person: _____

Role of Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Entity Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

Section Three: Project Description

Please detail your goals for an improved outdoor learning environment. Describe your current outdoor space and the vision for your space. What role(s) will the partner organizations play to bring this vision to fruition? Please detail how partner organizations currently work together.

Section Four: Community Description

Please describe the community you are working with and hope to impact. Please address demographics, cultural resources, and the needs of the community.

Section Five: Site Information

Do you lease or own the site? (check one)

- Lease
- Own

Who owns the site? _____

Do you have their permission (and letter of support) to engage in ECHO? (check one)

- Yes
- No

Can you guarantee you will stay in the present site for at least five more years? (check one)

- Yes
- No

Are you able to garden at the site? (check one)

- Yes
- No

Is there access to water at the site? (check one)

- Yes
- No

Number of months the site is open during the year: _____

If it is not open year-round, how will you manage your outdoor learning environment when the site is closed?

Please estimate the number of children under the age of five who will have access to this space:

Is there an existing child care facility on site, or as a partner organization? (check one)

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is program name of the child care facility?

If yes, please provide the child care license number: _____

If yes, how do you envision engaging the children and families in this facility in this project?

Section Six: 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 Leadership Capacity and Community Engagement

Explain your capacity for leadership. How will you activate the site to engage local families, children under the age of five, and their caregivers? How do you plan to engage the community in the development and management of the site?

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 Seven: Signature

By signing below, I hereby attest that everything included in this application is valid and true. I certify that the applicant organization 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 requirements. I acknowledge that National Wildlife Federation may verify all information contained in this application.

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 Eight: Commitments

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

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.

Section Eight: Application Checklist

This checklist is for your personal use and does not need to be submitted with application.

- Complete application with all required attachments including:
- Letter of support from owner of the space where the project will occur (unless the owner is completing the application)
- Photos of the current space including an aerial image of the area with location information (perimeter can be drawn on the image); Preferred aerial image: Google Earth Map of the site at a 200 and 500 scale