

ECHO Spring 2023 Orleans Parish ECHO Fund Operations Grant Application

Welcome!

Overview of the ECHO Fund

The Early Childhood Opportunity Fund (ECHO) Fund is Agenda for Children's innovative grant program that seeks to increase access to high-quality early care and education for children from birth through age four by directly funding the needs of early childhood programs.

The ECHO Fund supports early learning programs in our region by investing in increased access, ingenuity, and quality for our youngest learners. Since the fund's inception in 2018, Agenda for Children has distributed over 1,000 grants amounting in over \$4.8M.

Grant Summary

The Spring 2023 Orleans Parish ECHO Fund Operations Grant, made possible through Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Believe! funding, intends to support Type III early care and education (ECE) programs and Family Child Care Providers (FCCs) with Academic Approval through direct, one-time financial grants. Grants will support New Orleans ECE programs in meeting their center's operating costs.

The ECHO Fund Spring 2023 Operations Grant will provide grants of between \$2,500 to \$5,000 for up to 30 providers in Orleans Parish. Additional eligibility requirements and exceptions apply; please read the grant requirements in full before applying for grant funding.

Funding for this grant is limited, and not all applications may receive funding.

Additional grant information is available on Agenda for Children's website.

Grant Timeline

- *March 15, 2023: LAUNCH*
- *March 31, 2023: APPLICATION DEADLINE*
- *April 21, 2023: AWARD NOTIFICATION*

The application is split into the following sections:

- Section I - VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY
This section is designed to ensure the applicant is eligible.
- Section II - SITE INFORMATION
This section is designed for the applicant to provide basic background information for their site.
- Section III - GRANT REQUEST INFORMATION
This section is designed to understand what the applicant is applying for and why.
- Section IV - FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION
Applicants will provide a completed W-9 and a Direct Deposit Form, if desired to ensure timely release of funds should they be awarded a grant.
- Section V - ASSURANCES
Applicants will complete an agreement regarding their application and award requirements.
- Section VI - FEEDBACK (OPTIONAL)
Applicants will provide feedback on their application experience.

Application Notes

Applicants may save their application progress to be resumed later by utilizing the "Save and continue later" function on the top right corner of the application. Applicants can view application questions in full by viewing the PDF [here](#). Applications are only accepted via this online portal. Applications will not be accepted via email.

Application support is available via email at ECHOfund@agendaforchildren.org. Support is available during our regularly scheduled hours of operation (M-F, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

Applicants are highly encouraged to review the grant rubric to understand how grant determinations will be made before completing their application. Quality grant applications must align with the grant's intended purpose, outline a plan of implementation for the use of funds, address how funds will be used if the provider is awarded less than the requested amount, and provide supporting documentation on the intended use of funds (e.g., Amazon

Wish Lists, invoices, etc.).

Verification of Eligibility

Page description:

Please provide information on your site's status below.

1. In which parish is your program located? *

Only sites located in Orleans Parish are eligible for this grant.

- Orleans
- Other

2. Please select your provider category: *

Only Type III ECE programs and FCCs with Academic Approval are eligible for this grant.

- Type III Early Learning Center
- FCC with Academic Approval
- Other

3. License Number: *

4. Does your program receive funding from Head Start or Early Head Start?*

Due to the funding source, funding cannot be used to support programs with Head Start or Early Head Start seats.

- Yes
- No

5. Is your program a school-based pre-K site? *

- Yes
- No

6. Does your school-based pre-k site have a Type III license? *

Due to the funding source, funding cannot be used to support school-based pre-K sites without a Type III license. Please reach out to ECHOfund@agendaforchildren.org if you are uncertain which of these applies to you.

- Yes
- No

7. Is your program currently open and operating? *

Programs must be open with children enrolled as of March 1st, 2023, with exceptions for temporary closures due to emergencies and sites that are recipients of City Seats for the 23-24 school year who are in the process of opening.

- Yes
- No

8. What date did your site close? *

9. What date do you anticipate reopening? *

10. Why is your site closed? Please provide as much detail as possible. *

11. Please select the 2022 Performance Profile Overall Score range that applies to your site below: *

Applicants must be in good standing with the New Orleans Early Education Network (NOEEN) and LDOE licensing requirements and have a 2022 Performance Profile Overall Score of 3.75 or higher to be considered for this grant.

- Overall Score of 3.75 or higher
- Overall Score lower than 3.75
- My program has not yet received a Performance Profile rating

12. Did you site receive the ECHO Facilities Fund Grant in January of 2023? *

Awardees of the January 2023 Facilities Fund ECHO Grant are not eligible for funding, with potential exceptions for providers experiencing extreme extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to: fire, theft, violent crime, natural disaster, etc.

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

13. Awardees of the January 2023 Facilities Fund ECHO Grant are not eligible for funding. Exceptions to this restriction may be made for providers experiencing extreme extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to: fire, theft, violent crime, natural disaster, etc.

Are you applying for an exception to this requirement? *

- Yes
- No

14. Please describe your exceptional circumstance in as much detail as possible. *

Site Background Information

Page description:

Please provide basic background information for your site below.

15. Site Name: *

16. Site Address: *

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

Zip:

17. Applicant Contact Information: *

First Name:

Last Name:

Job Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

18. Program Website or Facebook:

19. Total Enrollment: *

20. Number of Publicly-Funded Enrolled: *

21. Please select all funding sources your site receives below: *

- B-3
- CCAP
- City Seats
- Early Head Start/Head Start
- LA4
- NSECD
- Other - Write In
- None of the Above

Grant Request

The Spring 2023 Orleans Parish ECHO Fund Operations Grant will provide grants of between \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00 for up to 30 providers (FCCs with Academic Approval and certain Type III ECE programs) in Orleans Parish to assist with operating costs.

Programs can apply for grants toward expenses related to their general operating costs, including, but not limited to:

- Developmentally appropriate books and toys
- Facilities (rent or mortgage payments, electricity bills, water bills, etc.)
- Center supplies
- Physical improvements (furniture, paint, etc.)
- Overhead costs unrelated to staffing

Applicants should note that grants may not be used toward the following expense categories:

- Technology
- Curriculum kits
- Stipends or salaries
- Professional development
- ASQ kits

Please provide supporting information for your request below.

22. What is your total grant request? *

Sites may request between \$2,500.00 and \$5,000.00.

23. Select which grant categories/priorities do you intend to use the grant money for. *

Applicants should note that grants may not be used toward the following expense categories:

Technology, Curriculum kits, Stipends or salaries, Professional development, or ASQ kits

- Developmentally appropriate books and toys
- Physical Improvements
- Facilities (rent or mortgage payments, electricity bills, water bills, etc.)
- Center supplies
- Operating costs unrelated to staffing
- Other - Write In

24. Describe your grant request. *

25. Please provide a proposed breakdown of funding, if awarded:*

Please provide an estimate of the cost of each of the item/services that you plan to use the funds to purchase.

	Description (Items/Purpose)	Amount (\$)
Developmentally appropriate books and toys	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Facilities (rent or mortgage payments, electricity bills, water bills, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Center supplies	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Physical improvements	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Operating costs unrelated to staffing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

26. Please provide any supporting information regarding your proposed breakdown of funding (quotes, links to materials desired, invoices, etc.).*

Example: "We have made a wish list on Amazon of the materials needed, linked here."

Note: If you are providing an Amazon wish list, please ensure the privacy settings are set to public.

You can see instructions on how to change privacy settings [here](#).

27. What is your proposed plan and timeline for implementation of resources secured by grant funds, if awarded? *

Example: "Once materials are received, it will take our team approximately two weeks to implement their use through setting up classroom space and training our teachers on their use."

28. If you were to receive an amount that is less than your grant request, would you still be able to utilize the funding? If so, how? *

29. How many people will be impacted by the grant? *

Number of teachers impacted:

Number of children impacted:

30. Who will benefit from this funding? *

Select all that apply

- Director/Administrator
- Owner
- Teachers
- Other Staff
- Children
- Families

31. How old are the children who will benefit from this funding?*

Select all that apply

- Infants
- Toddlers
- Pre-K

32. Is there any additional information you would like to provide our review team not covered by the questions included in this application?

Should you be awarded this grant, our team will need the following information to release funding to your site.

Please complete the following paperwork so that our team can distribute funds in a timely manner.

33. Please download, complete, and upload a W-9 form for your site. You can download this form by clicking [here](#). Upload this file by clicking "Browse" below. *

Browse...

34. Please download, complete, and upload a Direct Deposit form for your site, if you wish to receive funds via Direct Deposit. You can download this form by clicking [here](#). Upload this file by clicking "Browse" below.

If you do not complete this form, you will be sent a check to the address provided in your application.

Browse...

Assurances

Page description:
Please sign the assurances below.

35. By signing below, I am verifying that:

- All of the information I have provided is truthful and accurate.
- If awarded this grant, I agree to complete the close-out grant reporting requirements, which includes providing receipts, scans of checks, and potentially photographs to document my expenses within the timeframe requested.
- I understand that, if awarded this grant, I can only use funds for the requested and approved items.

*

Sign name using mouse or touch pad

Signature of

Application Feedback (Optional)

Page description:

Please provide our team with feedback on your application experience so we can continue to improve.

36. How long did it take you to complete this application?

37. Are there any parts of the application that you found challenging or difficult?

38. Did you find the information provided prior to filling out this application to be useful?

39. What suggestions do you have for our team to improve the application experience?

Thank You!

Thank you for submitting your application. You will receive a confirmation email with a copy of your submission. Our team will be in touch regarding our award determinations.