

ECHO Workforce Pitch Contest Application

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, through directly funding early childhood programs' needs.

The ECHO Fund directly supports the needs of early learning programs in our region, 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 totaling over \$6.3M in ECHO grants.

Opportunity

The ECHO Fund Workforce Pitch Competition will provide awards to as many as five providers of up to \$50,000 to be determined by a live, in-person pitch competition judged by community members and national experts. Awards are designed to assist eligible Orleans Parish providers in implementing innovative workforce solutions for their educators. The top three winners will also receive technical assistance from For Providers by Providers to support implementing their idea.

Programs should submit ideas that will directly and solely benefit and incentivize early learning program educators through innovative and unique methods. Proposals should focus on strategies that will attract and retain quality educators and reduce staff turnover. Proposals should go beyond the scope of traditional benefits; applicants are encouraged to think outside of the box and submit cutting-edge proposals.

This process is competitive; not all applicants may receive funding.

Applicants should note that funding **may not be used for anything** that does not directly and solely benefit classroom educators.

Eligibility requirements apply. **Additional information can be found on the [Agenda for Children website](#).**

Determination Process

Candidates must submit a two-minute video proposal, or a "pitch," briefly describing their program and how award funds would be used for their application. Semi-finalists will be notified by June 30. All semi-finalists must participate in a follow-up

interview with our review committee, to be conducted on July 6-7. Finalists will be notified on July 10, 2023 and are expected to participate in the August 3 pitch competition. Award amounts will be determined by a pitch competition to be hosted with a panel of community leaders and national experts on August 3, 2023 at Southern University New Orleans. Applicants are highly encouraged to review the [application rubric](#) to understand how grant determinations will be made.

Timeline

- June 5th: Application Launch
- June 23rd: Application Deadline
- June 30th: Semi-Finalists Notified
- July 6th - 7th: Semi-Finalist Interviews
- July 10th: Finalists Notified
- August 3rd: Pitch Competition Held

Application Notes

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. Applications may not be saved and resumed later; applications should be completed in one session. An overview of the application can be found below:

- Section I: Application Introduction
- Section II: Eligibility
- Section III: Program Information
- Section IV: Applicant Information
- Section V: Proposal

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).

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Eligibility

Please provide information for your program below to confirm your eligibility.

2. **Location:** *

Due to the funding source, only providers located in Orleans Parish are eligible for this funding.

Mark only one oval.

Orleans Parish

Other

Program Information

Please provide information for your program below to confirm your eligibility.

3. **Provider Type: ***

Due to the funding source, FCCS without Academic Approval and School-based programs without LA4 or NSECD are not eligible for this funding.

Mark only one oval.

- Type I or Type II Center
- Licensed Type III Center
- FCC with Academic Approval
- FCC without Academic Approval
- School-based Program with LA4 and/or NSECD
- School-based Program without LA4 and/or NSECD
- Other: _____

4. **Program Name: ***

5. **License Number (if applicable):**

6. **Site Code: ***

7. **Program Address:** *

Applicant Information

Please provide information on the person completing the application below. Be sure to keep an eye out for follow-up communication!

8. **Applicant Name:** *

9. **Applicant Title:** *

10. **Applicant Phone:** *

Proposal

Please provide information on your proposal below.

11. **Please provide a short summary of your pitch idea below. ***

In your summary, you should include the following:

- How your idea directly benefits educators on your staff
- What makes your idea unique or innovative
- How you plan to implement your idea
- Any resources at your disposal to support you in this process (partnerships, etc.)

12. **Please submit a two-minute video of your pitch idea below! ***

Files submitted: