

Fall 2023 Quality ECHO 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 \$5.8M.

Grant Summary

The Fall 2023 ECHO Fund Quality Grant, made possible through the Kellogg Foundation and United Way of Southeast Louisiana, intends to support Family Child Care Centers (FCCs) with Academic Approval and licensed Type III early care and education (ECE) programs in their efforts to address program quality through direct, one-time financial relief grants.

All eligible providers are strongly encouraged to apply. All eligible sites that apply will receive some level of funding, provided they submit a full and complete application requesting one of the approved uses of funds.

Grant Timeline

- *Monday, September 18th, 2023: APPLICATION LAUNCH*
- *Friday, September 29th, 2023: APPLICATION DEADLINE*
- *Friday, October 6th, 2023: DETERMINATION NOTIFICATION*

Purpose of the Grant

The ECHO Fund Quality Grant will provide awards of at least \$1,600 to assist Family Child Care Centers (FCCs) with Academic Approval and licensed Type III ECE programs in Assumption, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Washington parishes that are open and operating as of September 1st, 2023.

Jefferson Parish 501(c)(3), Type III centers that are not located within a K-12 school are also eligible to apply.

Orleans Parish providers are not eligible for this grant due to the funding source.

Grants are designed to support programs in improving their program quality. All eligible sites that apply will receive some level of funding, provided they submit a full and complete application requesting one of the approved uses of funds. See approved uses of funds below:

- Materials developed to directly support curriculum implementation, including online access to supplementary materials for purchased curriculum;
- Early learning materials, including developmentally-appropriate books and toys and materials for direct, hands-on child interaction
- Classroom furnishings that support an environment of independence (such as stepping stools) as well as community (such as a class rug for circle time)

Grant requests that are not in alignment with the acceptable uses described above will not be accepted. Additional prohibited materials include technology (laptops, iPads, etc.), workbooks, reproducible patterns, and decorative items primarily for teacher use (such as bulletin boards and calendars).

Application Notes

The application is split into the following sections:

- Section I - VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY
This section is designed to ensure the applicant is eligible.
- Section I - 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 - ASSURANCES
Applicants will complete an agreement regarding their application and award requirements.
- Section V - FEEDBACK (OPTIONAL)
Applicants will provide feedback on their application experience.

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. A PDF of the application can be found on our website for those who wish to see questions in advance and plan their responses.

Applications are only accepted via this online portal. Applications will not be accepted via email.

Please contact ECHOfund@agendaforchildren.org should you need to make edits to your application.

Application Support

Applicants are encouraged to utilize the LDOE's Classroom Materials Checklist to help identify potential purchases for their request.

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).

Verification of Eligibility

Page exit logic: cSkip / Disqualify Logic

IF: (((#1 Question "In what parish is your program located?" is not one of the following answers ("Assumption", "Jefferson", "Lafourche", "Plaquemines", "St. Bernard", "St. Charles", "St. James", "St. John", "St. Tammany", "Terrebonne", "Washington") OR #5 Question "Please select your provider category:" is one of the following answers ("Child Care Center (Type I or Type II)", "Family Child Care Center without Academic Approval", "Public School", "Nonpublic School"))) OR #7 Question "Is your program currently open and operating?" is one of the following answers ("No")) OR ((#1 Question "In what parish is your program located?" is one of the following answers ("Jefferson") AND #2 Question "Is your site a 501(c)(3) organization?" is one of the following answers ("No")) OR #4 Question "Is your program located within a public school?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")))

THEN: Disqualify and display:

Sorry, you do not qualify to apply for this grant. Please continue to check our website (<https://agendaforchildren.org/our-programs/echo-fund/>) for additional grant opportunities. If you believe you are receiving this message in error, please reach out to our team at echofund@agendaforchildren.org.

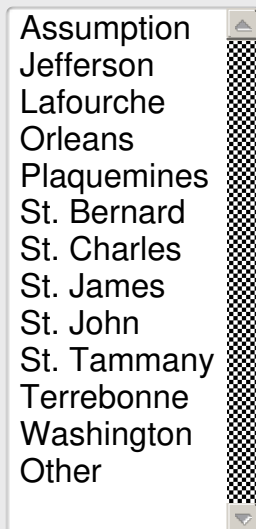
LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

1. In what parish is your program located? *

Type III centers and Academically Approved Family Child Care Providers in the following parishes are eligible for these grants: Assumption, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Washington.

Additionally, Jefferson Parish Type III centers that are 501(c)(3) nonprofits AND are not located within a K-12 school are eligible to apply.

Orleans Parish providers are not eligible for this grant due to the funding source.



A dropdown menu with a list of parishes. The list includes: Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Washington, and Other. The menu has a scroll bar on the right side.

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists. Hidden unless: #1 Question "In what parish is your program located?" is one of the following answers

("Assumption","Jefferson","Lafourche","Plaquemines","St. Bernard","St. Charles","St. James","St. John","St. Tammany","Terrebonne","Washington")

2. Is your site a 501(c)(3) organization? *

Jefferson Parish providers must be a 501(c)(3) to be eligible to receive grant funds.

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #2 Question "Is your site a 501(c)(3) organization?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

3. Please provide your EIN. *

LOGIC Hidden unless: #1 Question "In what parish is your program located?" is one of the following answers ("Jefferson")

4. Is your program located within a public school? *

Jefferson Parish providers may not be located within a K-12 public school to be eligible for these funds.

Yes

No

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

5. Please select your provider category: *

Only Type III Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Centers with Academic Approval are eligible for this grant.

Child Care Center (Type I or Type II)
Child Care Center (Type III)
Family Child Care Center without Academic Approval
Family Child Care Center with Academic Approval
Public School
Nonpublic School

LOGIC Hidden unless: #5 Question "Please select your provider category:" is one of the following answers ("Child Care Center (Type I or Type II)","Child Care Center (Type III)")

6. License Number: *

LOGIC Show/hide trigger exists.

7. Is your program currently open and operating? *

- Yes
- No

LOGIC Hidden unless: #7 Question "Is your program currently open and operating?" is one of the following answers ("No")

8. What date did your site close? *

LOGIC Hidden unless: #7 Question "Is your program currently open and operating?" is one of the following answers ("No")

9. What date do you anticipate reopening? *

LOGIC Hidden unless: #7 Question "Is your program currently open and operating?" is one of the following answers ("No")

10. Why is your site closed? *

11. Program Name: *

12. Program Website or Facebook:

13. Program Contact Information: *

Address Line
1:

Address Line
2:

Program City:

Program Zip:

Program Phone:

14. Applicant Contact Information: *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Applicant Phone:

Applicant
Email:

15. Please select below how you intend to use grant funds. Select all that apply. *

- Materials developed to directly support curriculum implementation, including online access to supplementary materials for purchased curriculum;
- Early learning materials, including developmentally-appropriate books and toys and materials for direct, hands-on child interaction
- Classroom furnishings that support an environment of independence (such as stepping stools) as well as community (such as a class rug for circle time)
- None of the above

16. **Please detail below all purchases you intend on making with grant funds (\$1,600).** You must include the name of the product, the vendor, the price, a link to the product, and the quantity for ALL items you plan to purchase. *

Example:

If awarded, I will use grant funds to purchase the following:

- 1 Creative Curriculum Essentials Kit, \$1,190 including taxes and shipping

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/collections/preschool/products/the-essentials-kit>)

- 1 The Creative Curriculum Kodo Dramatic Play Basic Kit, \$582 including taxes and shipping

(Link: [https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/kodo-dramatic-play-basic-kit?](https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/kodo-dramatic-play-basic-kit?variant=39772689203300)

variant=39772689203300)

17. Grantees may receive more than the \$1,600 minimum to be awarded per site.

With that in mind, describe below how your grant request would change **if you were to receive additional \$900 beyond the \$1,600 (\$2,500 total)**. You must include the name of the product, the vendor, the price, a link to the product, and the quantity for ALL items you plan to purchase not already described above.

*

Example:

If I were to receive an additional \$900, I would use the funds as follows:

- 2 Creative Curriculum Essentials Kit, \$2,380 including taxes and shipping

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/collections/preschool/products/the-essentials-kit>)

- 1 Creative Curriculum Nonfiction Books Collection Pack of 19 Titles (English), \$206.47 including taxes and shipping

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/nonfiction-books-collection-pack-of-19-titles-english?variant=39696714039396>)

- 1 Creative Curriculum Making Music with Families Book, \$23.69 including taxes and shipping,

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/making-music-with-instrument-families?variant=24158562287716>)

18. Grantees may receive more than the \$1,600 minimum to be awarded per site.

With that in mind, describe below how your grant request would change **if you were to receive an additional \$1,400 beyond the \$1,600 (\$3,000 total)**. You must include the name of the product, the vendor, the price, a link to the product, and the quantity for ALL items you plan to purchase not already described above.

*

Example:

If I were to receive an additional \$1,400, I would use the funds as follows:

- 2 Creative Curriculum Essentials Kit, \$2,380 including taxes and shipping

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/collections/preschool/products/the-essentials-kit>)

- 1 The Creative Curriculum Kodo Dramatic Play Basic Kit, \$582 including taxes and shipping

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/kodo-dramatic-play-basic-kit?variant=39772689203300>)

- 2 Creative Curriculum Making Music with Families Book, \$47.38 including taxes and shipping,

(Link: <https://shop.teachingstrategies.com/products/making-music-with-instrument-families?variant=24158562287716>)

19. How will these grant funds, if awarded, improve the quality of teacher-child interactions at your site? *

20. How will you ensure that the purchases made through this grant are in alignment with developmentally appropriate practice? *

Do you plan to utilize coaching, professional development, or any other resources?

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

The number of people reached is used only for our internal grant reporting purposes and your answers here will not impact whether you receive this grant or how large your grant is.

Number of teachers impacted:

Number of children impacted:

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

Financial Documentation

Page description:

Should you be awarded this grant, our team will need the following information to release funding to your site. Please complete the following paperwork (linked below) so that our team can distribute funds in a timely manner.

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

Note that your site name and site address on the W-9 must match the Louisiana Department of Education's licensing list *exactly*. If you are unsure of the correct information to list, please reach out to us at echofund@agendaforchildren.org. *

Browse...

24. Please download, complete, and upload a Direct Deposit form for your site. You can download this form by clicking here (it will automatically download). Upload this file by clicking "Browse" below.

Note that the name listed on the Direct Deposit Form must match the name listed on your W-9. If your account is listed under a separate name (like your personal name), you may list that in the second blank. *

Browse...

Assurances

25. 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.

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

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

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

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

Thank You!

Thank you for submitting your application. We will be in touch in the coming weeks regarding our award determinations.