

FY2020 Early Childhood Education and Development Fund

Buncombe County

APPLICATION

Buncombe County requests proposals for community based projects to enhance outcomes for young children and their families in our community. Grants made through the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund will be focused on access to quality early childhood care and education.

Online applications are due by 5:00pm on April 19, 2019.

- Projects must align with the goals and purposes outlined in the application. The focus is on scaling up effective practices for an enhanced local system of early care and education that is effective, accessible, affordable, responsive and sustainable.
- All organization types are eligible to apply. This includes public/governmental agencies as well as private organizations, including nonprofits and private businesses.
- In the first year of the fund (FY2020), requests for capital projects will be restricted to the public school systems. Capital outlay projects are defined as planning, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, improvement, repair, or renovation of buildings and for the purchase of land for early childhood care and education purposes.
- Any organization type may request funding for program operations.
- Multi-year funding requests will be considered.
- Collaborative projects involving multiple organizations will be considered.

The Board of Commissioners has identified the following goals related to this priority:

- Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach;
- Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs;
- Address issues of affordability, both for providers in a sustainable business model and for families in access to care;
- Support a robust career track in the field of early education, with development ladders from entry level to highly educated, credentialed, seasoned professionals; and

- Cultivate a system that responds to the needs of families, such as those impacted by trauma, poverty and addiction.

Funding will be allocated for the following purposes:

1. Creating new classrooms to serve more children in early care and education settings;
2. Implementing workforce development strategies to recruit and retain qualified teachers;
3. Supporting strategies for scaling up effective programs; and
4. Providing support services for children and families enrolled in early care and education programs.

Funding will be allocated to support programs and activities that can help contribute to a significant scale-up of the early childhood education system in Buncombe County, based on effective and promising practices locally and from other communities.

Examples of potential projects include:

- public/private collaborations to launch new centers and expand support services available at these programs (e.g. a health clinic);
- recruitment and retention strategies such as signing bonuses, individualized coaching, access to benefits like matched savings programs;
- shared services models that help smaller centers become more operationally and fiscally effective; and/or
- strategies focused on advocacy at the state level and on supporting effective local collaboration.

PROJECT

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Project Description

Provide an overall summary of the project. Include information about whether this a new initiative, an expansion, or a continuation.

Character Limit: 3000

Key Steps

How will the project work? What specific activities and milestones are included in the project plan?

Character Limit: 3000

Need

What is the main issue that this project is established to address? What data are available to demonstrate the need? (quantitative/qualitative, agency/community/research evidence)

Character Limit: 1000

Approach

What models or evidence-based practices will be incorporated into this project?

Character Limit: 1000

Organization

Provide an overview of the organization that will be responsible for this project. If this application is a partnership between more than one organization, describe the lead entity or fiscal agent. When was the organization established, what is the focus and services, and what is the track record of success?

Character Limit: 1000

Collaboration

List any formal partners, and describe their roles in the project. How will the partnership be managed and monitored? List additional supportive partners and their roles.

Character Limit: 1000

Equity

Describe your approach to racial equity, both inside and outside the organization. What are some specific examples of practices that are in place?

Character Limit: 1000

RESULTS

Purpose

Explain how this project aligns with the goals and purposes identified by the Board of Commissioners for the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Character Limit: 1000

Scope

Is this project focused on enhancing the overall system or is it focused on specific programming within the system? Does the project focus on one component of early care and education (such as pre-k) or a certain subset of the population (such as geographic or demographic)?

Character Limit: 1000

Outputs

What key measures will be tracked that relate to project activities and volume of services? How much will be achieved with this project? How will the outputs be measured and monitored?

Character Limit: 1000

Outcomes

Describe the intended result to be achieved by this project. Be specific about the change that will occur as a result of funded activities. Include information about any impact the project will have on the following areas: system effectiveness; workforce; slots; program quality; affordability; access; equity; and/or the growth and development of children.

Character Limit: 1000

Evaluation

Explain the project evaluation process. Are there specific performance goals? How will performance indicators will practices and/or inform decision making?

Character Limit: 1000

Scale

What is your vision for how the strategies from this project could contribute to a significant scale-up the overall system to collectively address shortages serve more children and families?

Character Limit: 1000

Resource Support

What are the most important questions that the organization will be wrestling with over the term of the grant? Are there ways beyond funding that Buncombe County can support your organization in strengthening your work? (e.g. related to equity, scale, or impact)

Character Limit: 1000

BUDGET

FY2020 Request Amount

How much funding is being requested from Buncombe County's Early Childhood Fund for FY2020? (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

Character Limit: 20

Project Budget

Upload a budget for the project, including revenue and expenditures. Any standard budget format is acceptable, provided that it contains clear information about the income sources and expense details for the project. Denote any eligible capital expenses. Include information about any sub-contracts or funding that will be issued to project partners. If this is a multi-year request, separate the budgets by year.

File Size Limit: 25 MB

Budget Narrative

Provide a summary of the project budget. Explain how grant funds will be used, specifically what type of expenses would be covered by County funds. Describe what other revenue sources are also budgeted for the project, including type of funding source, restrictions, and status.

Character Limit: 1000

Multi-Year Funding

Is this a request for multi-year funding? If multi-year, explain the request. Would the project be able to begin with a 1-year grant, or is a multi-year commitment critical?

Character Limit: 1000

Partial Funding

If the project were to be offered a grant for partial funding, what factors would need to be considered?

Character Limit: 1000

GRANT PROCESS

Grant applications will be reviewed by the Early Childhood Education and Development Committee. Recommendations from the Committee will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Grant announcements are anticipated for June 2019 with the funding period to begin July 1, 2019. After grants are awarded, funding will be administered by the Strategic Partnerships Department through performance based contracts. Organizations will be required to submit financial assurances and certificates of insurance as part of the contracting process. Terms of disbursement of grant funds will be negotiated, and fiscal and programmatic compliance will be monitored.