

EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS (ECHO): SPRING 2018 DEMONSTRATION SITE APPLICATION FOR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SITES



ECHO
EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH OUTDOORS

In Partnership With
Natural Learning Initiative
& Qualistar Colorado

Grant Information and Criteria

Grant Application Deadline

Postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2018. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the second week of March 2018. Please email application, and all supporting documentation to echo@qualistar.org. If mailing or delivering the application, please use: Qualistar Colorado, 3607 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Denver, CO 80205.

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.

Technical Assistance Webinar

Do you have questions regarding the Demonstration Site application or process? If so, please plan to attend the following webinar. Please click on the date below to register.

[Wednesday, January 17, 5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.](#)

Contact Information

For questions about the ECHO Initiative, 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, Outdoor Learning Specialist and Trainer, Qualistar Colorado

Email: asedlak@qualistar.org Phone: 303-339-6822

The ECHO Initiative is a partnership between The National Wildlife Federation, Qualistar Colorado, and the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University.

This opportunity is generously supported by [The Colorado Health Foundation](#) and the [Gates Family Foundation](#).



About the Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) Initiative

Healthy. Natural. Affordable. These are the foundations of Colorado's new Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) Initiative. And this is what the ECHO Initiative 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 the ECHO Initiative, please visit <http://www.nwf.org/echo>.

Demonstration Site

Over the course of the next two years, Demonstration Sites will be developed at 10 sites across Colorado that serve children under the age of five. Licensed child care centers, licensed preschools, and publicly accessible spaces that become Demonstration Sites receive design and planning assistance and \$10,000 to complete the installation of an outdoor learning environment (OLE) that features best practices as outlined in the Natural Learning Initiative OLE Toolkit. In return, the Demonstration Sites host biannual educational visits from other early childhood professionals and landscape designers, and participate in evaluation of the project through surveys of community and project partners. The ECHO Initiative utilizes research-based best practices to achieve statewide adoption of high-quality outdoor learning environments at early childhood education (ECE) sites throughout Colorado. Through a competitive process, two licensed child care center and preschool sites were selected in Fall 2017. In 2018, sites will be selected as follows: a) Spring 2018: four sites (licensed child care centers or preschool sites and publicly accessible sites serving Family, Friend, and Neighbor child care) will be selected and b) Fall 2018: four sites (licensed child care centers or preschool sites and publicly accessible sites serving Family, Friend, and Neighbor child care) will be selected.

Required dates and commitments for Demonstration Sites selected in Spring 2018:

- Utilize \$10,000 (to be received in two payments) to enhance the outdoor learning environment based on designs provided by ECHO Partners.
- Participate in a full-day Interactive Design Workshop led by ECHO Partners in Denver on April 12, 2018. ECHO Partners will support travel needs.
- Identify two individuals to receive sponsored registration to Annual ECHO Summit in Denver hosted in October 2018 and 2019.
- Identify community representative(s) or individual(s) who will support implementation to participate in a Technical Assistance Provider Workshop in Denver in late fall 2018 (date TBD).
- Be available for on-site consultation from National Wildlife Federation ECHO design team (e.g., site measurements, pictures, action planning, etc.) as needed.
- Host two on-site training events in 2019 and annually thereafter with support from ECHO Partners to share experiences with others interested in adopting ECHO best practices.

- Identify two individuals to receive sponsored registration for the “[Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children](#)” online certificate program.
- Receive ongoing support from an ECHO Support Specialist and ECHO Partners through site visits, phone calls, online consultation, and email.
- Engage in program evaluation with instruments (e.g., surveys, etc.) furnished by ECHO Partners.

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

In an effort to ensure the ECHO Initiative reaches all young children in Colorado, we are encouraging community sites such as community centers, nature centers, publicly accessible parks, libraries, or community playgrounds to apply to be either a Demonstration Site or Seed Grant Site in 2018 or 2019. Programs and locations that provide outdoor space that is regularly used by zero to five year old children cared for by Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers are welcome to apply.

ECHO Demonstration Site grants 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 and have permission to alter and use the space for a minimum of 5 years.
5. Commit to creating and/or enhancing an outdoor learning environment, including naturalization of the site and gardening on-site.
6. Willing to serve as a demonstration site for others interested in learning about ECHO best practices.

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 at or near places that are perceived as safe, or welcoming to, mixed documentation status families.

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.

Spring 2018: Demonstration 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
- At least one letter of support from a community or project partner
- Completed, and signed W-9
- Photos of the current space including an aerial image of the area with location information (preferred aerial image: Google Earth Map of the site at a 200 and 500 scale)

Section One: Project Information

Title of Proposed Project: _____

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: _____

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: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Entity Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

Partner 2:

Name of Entity: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Entity Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Employer Identification Number (EIN): _____

Section Three: Project Description

Please briefly detail your goals for an improved outdoor learning environment. What are you trying to accomplish? What community will be impacted? How will partners come together to make this work?

Section Four: Community Description

Please describe the community you are working with. 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 this Initiative?

- 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?

Section Six: Narratives

Responses are required for each of the five 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 Demonstration Site? How will this Initiative help meet the needs of your community?

2. Explanation of Leadership Capacity

Explain your capacity for leadership. How will you activate the site to engage local families, children under the age of five, and their caregivers? Do you have programming you will lead on site? How will programming reflect the cultural needs of the community including addressing language barriers?

3. Explanation of Management Capacity

How will you actively maintain and manage the area that will house the outdoor learning environment? How will the space be regularly cared for? Who will support the development of the site and implementation of the design plan? Do you foresee any barriers to managing the site? If so, please share them and how you will address these concerns.

4. Explanation of Community Engagement and Access

How do you plan to engage the community in the development and management of the site? What outreach efforts will you implement to gain community support?

Please describe the accessibility of the site to the community and identify any real or perceived barriers to access. How will you address those challenges?

5. Statement of Financial Need

We recognize that the grant funding provided through this Initiative is not enough to cover the costs of the entire design and build. Please address your financial situation as it pertains to your ability to fundraise and seek donations and support for the project.

Section Seven: Signature and Commitments

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 Qualistar Colorado 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.

Name and title of Owner, CEO, or Executive Director of the Primary Contact Entity (please print):

Signature of Owner, CEO, or Executive Director:

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:

Date: _____

Please check to confirm your understanding of the following commitments to be a 2018 ECHO Demonstration Site (must be submitted with application):

- .. Utilize \$10,000 (to be received in two payments) to enhance the outdoor learning environment based on designs provided by ECHO Partners.
- .. Participate in a full-day Interactive Design Workshop led by ECHO Partners in Denver on April 12, 2018. ECHO Partners will support travel needs.
- .. Identify two individuals to receive sponsored registration to Annual ECHO Summit in Denver hosted in October 2018 and 2019.
- .. Identify community representative(s) or individual(s) who will support implementation to participate in a Technical Assistance Provider Workshop in Denver in late fall 2018 (date TBD).
- .. Be available for on-site consultation from National Wildlife Federation ECHO design team (e.g., site measurements, pictures, action planning, etc.) as needed.
- .. Host two on-site training events in 2019 and annually thereafter with support from ECHO Partners to share experiences with fellow early childhood professionals.
- .. Identify two individuals to receive sponsored registration for the "[Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children](#)" online certificate program.
- .. Receive ongoing support from an ECHO Support Specialist and ECHO Partners through site visits, phone calls, online consultation, and email.
- .. Engage in program evaluation with instruments (e.g., surveys, etc.) furnished by ECHO Partners.

Section Four: 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
- .. At least one letter of support from a community or project partner
- .. Completed, and signed W-9
- .. Photos of the current space including an aerial image of the area with location information (preferred aerial image: Google Earth Map of the site at a 200 and 500 scale)