ALAMANCE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
2019-2020

TITLE: Alamance Partnership for Children Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) Grant Application

ISSUE DATE: October 1st, 2019

ISSUING AGENCY: Alamance Partnership for Children
2322 River Road
Burlington, NC 27217
Attn: Kim Mietus
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www.alamancechildren.org

A letter of intent must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11th, 2019. Applications must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18th, 2019. No letters of intent or applications will be accepted after the deadlines.

Interested parties should submit letter of intent and application electronically to Kim Mietus, Outdoor Learning Specialist at kmietus@alamancechildren.org

INTRODUCTION

The Alamance Partnership for Children (hereinafter referred to as the “Partnership”) has partnered with Impact Alamance to provide grants to create Outdoor Learning Environments (OLE) in child care centers in Alamance County. The Partnership is soliciting applications to establish a one-time grant through competitive negotiations. The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to create natural OLE’s at approved child care sites. Sites may also apply if funding is necessary to complete an outdoor learning environment that is under construction or partially completed. The grant includes design plans, required training, and some materials/labor for first phase. Grant amount is dependent upon design plans for each site.

BACKGROUND

The Partnership is a private, nonprofit agency (501 c 3) dedicated to the vision that all children arrive at formal education healthy, happy, and ready for success in school and life. These functions include the development of programs that emphasize community collaboration and assure the best possible transition to kindergarten for young children.
Natural outdoor learning spaces at early childhood education sites include diverse features designed to promote structured and unstructured physical activity, play, and learning. Natural outdoor play promotes physical fitness, gross motor development, and imaginative play. Natural OLEs help build a child’s understanding and appreciation of ecosystems, food systems, and environmental processes. Benefits can also include improving a child’s self-regulation, nutrition, and academic performance. Features that should be included in the design of an OLE are as follows:

- At least two outdoor gross motor features (e.g., climbing features or looping pathways);
- At least ten outdoor learning settings (e.g., gardening area, loose parts station, or dramatic play area);
- A diverse selection of plants and habitat’s representative of local flora and fauna;
- Natural features that enrich children’s play and learning such as: non-toxic trees, shrubs, or vines: topographic variations (such as mounds, terraces, slopes); a variety of ground surfaces (mulch, grass, pebbles); smooth rocks, wood or logs; non-poisonous flowering plants or garden plants and vegetables; birdfeeders, bird baths and birdhouses;
- An outdoor water source.

APPLICANT SELECTION
Applicants will be selected on the following criteria:

- Accuracy, completeness, content, and strength of Application;
- Ability and commitment to sustain the OLE beyond the grant;
- Ability and commitment to complete the first phase project by September 30th, 2020.

TIMELINE

- October 1st, 2019- Release date of RFA.
- October 8th, 2019- Informational meeting for interested applicants 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Partnership office. **Attendance is strongly encouraged.**
- October 11th, 2019-Letter of intent submitted to the Partnership office by 5:00 p.m.
- October 18th, 2019- Completed applications must be received at the Partnership office by 5:00 p.m.
- November 2019- OLE Grant Committee will review applications.
- November 2019- Selected sites will be announced.
- August 31st, 2020- All invoices and receipts must be submitted for payment.
- September 30th, 2020- Projects must be completed.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must be an Alamance County child care center that serves children receiving child care subsidy.
- The site must have at least a four star rating and be in good standing with the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education.
- Site must have outdoor space that is formally designated as an OLE.
- The principal/director and key staff must commit to completing the *Outdoor Learning Environments for Young Children* online certificate course through NC State University and the Natural Learning Initiative.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to complete the first phase of project by September 30th, 2020, and to sustain the OLE beyond the one-time grant.
- Sites with NC Pre-K classrooms are not eligible to apply.
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The following is a general description of the process by which a prospective Applicant will be selected to receive the grant.

1. Request for Applications (RFA) is issued to prospective Applicants.

2. All Applications must be received electronically by the Partnership no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18th, 2019.

3. At their option, the OLE Grant Committee may request discussion with any or all prospective Applicants to clarify or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the Application. However, prospective Applicants are cautioned that the OLE Grant Committee is not required to request clarification; therefore, all Applications should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the prospective Applicants.

4. The Contract must be executed prior to the start of work and incurring any expenses.

5. All applicants will be notified of grants awarded by the OLE Grant Committee.
Child Care Outdoor Learning Environment Grant Application

Site Name__________________________________________________________

Contact Name______________________________________________________

Contact Email_______________________________________________________

Phone______________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________________

Tax ID Number (if applicable) ________________________________

1. **Statement of Interest**
   Please briefly share why your site would like to create an OLE? How would it be used?

2. **Commitment & Sustainability**
   Please describe your site’s expertise and experience with OLE’s. How have you communicated and educated your families and staff about the benefits and purpose of OLEs? How will you ensure yourself and staff are trained in the use of OLEs with young children? How do you plan to sustain and continue to grow the OLE? Who will be responsible for maintenance and who will do the actual work?

3. **Community Involvement & Resources**
   What community resources will you utilize to help you throughout the process?
   What additional support (financial, in-kind, equipment, etc.) will you obtain?

4. **Estimate amount of funding needed**

5. **Other**
   Please provide us with any other information that you would like to include about your application.

**Signature:**
I certify that our site will make a good faith effort to meet the project requirements for the OLE Project and to fully participate in all the project activities.

__________________________________________  ______________
Principal / Director                           Date

Funding for this project provided by:
[Impact Alamance logo]