



Early Childhood Affordability Program Grant Application

Purpose:

The City of Ashland is accepting pilot program grant applications for Early Childhood Affordability Program the 2023/24 school year.

Ashland is an early learning and childcare desert and has developed this program with the express purpose of increasing affordability and access, to quality early learning and childcare programs for working families.

Pilot Program Goals:

- Address Ashland's need for expanded early childhood care services
- Respond to households seeking affordability & financial stability
- Attract and retain a local workforce through quality of life and affordability
- Reinforce & propel kindergarten readiness in collaboration with partners
- Support economic development in Ashland

Program Funding:

Up to \$100,000 will be available for distribution as part of the Early Childhood Affordability Pilot Program. As this is a pilot program, changes may be made during its implementation (October 2023 – June 2024). The city appreciates your patience.

Additionally, the Ashland City Council has only authorized funding for 2023/24. The results of the pilot will inform future funding decisions. Funding in future years is not guaranteed.

Program Structure:

1. Program providers apply for the Early Childhood Affordability Pilot Program grant funding
2. The Ad hoc committee on Affordable Childcare conducts interviews and site visits
3. The City Council awards grants to eligible providers
4. Grantees work with families in their programs, and applying to their programs, to assess need and award scholarships to qualified households.
 - a. The city will not assess individual households. This is the responsibility of the program provider.
5. Households receive affordability scholarships through June 2024.
 - a. The Early Childhood Affordability Program serves households at or below 200% of the Southern Oregon Median Income.

Household Size	200% of Southern Oregon Median Income
2	\$129,500
3	\$145,630
4	\$161,750
5	\$174,750
6	\$187,750
7	\$200,630
8	\$213,630

6. Provider reports quarterly on the progress of the affordable scholarship program as outlined under "Reporting" below.

Eligibility:

Eligibility for Early Childhood Affordability Grant Funding includes the following criteria:

1. Providers must have an active childcare license IN GOOD STANDING with the State of Oregon Office of Child Care.
2. Providers must be a legal entity currently registered to do business in the State of Oregon.
3. Providers must be located within Ashland City limits.
4. Providers must carry liability insurance as follows:
 - a. Commercial General Liability, Amount \$1M / Per Occurrence \$1M / Aggregate \$2M, and
 - b. For those transporting children: Commercial Auto Liability, Amount \$1M/ Per Occurrence \$1M.
 - c. Sexual Abuse/Molestation Liability Insurance. Amount 1mill/ Per Occurrence 1mill / Aggregate 2mill

Early Childhood Affordability Grant recipients awarding scholarships must make awards adherent to the below criteria:

1. Scholarship recipient is an Ashland resident, or an employee of an Ashland based business,
2. Scholarship recipient is between the ages of zero and four years eleven months of age, and
3. Scholarship recipient demonstrates a financial need.
 - a. Financial need is defined as a household earning at or below 200% of the Southern Oregon Median Income.
 - b. Financial need must be established by the household's most recent W-2, or pay stub, and verified by the early learning service provider.

Reporting:

Early Childhood Affordability Grant recipients must provide quarterly reporting to the City of Ashland. Reporting requirements are necessary to ensure appropriate use of funds, evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program and assess results for future planning.

Requirements for reporting are:

1. Summary narrative of scholarship work completed.
2. Total number of scholarships awarded, and number of families served.
3. Attendance of scholarship recipients:
 - a. Number attending 90% of the time, 75% of the time, less than 50% of program time.
4. Average scholarship award value, and scholarship award value range (smallest vs. largest scholarship).
5. Total enrollment without the Early Childhood Affordability Grant dollars versus total enrollment with the grant dollars.
6. Current waitlist count if any.
7. If applicable, indicate if the Early Childhood Affordability Grant dollars supporting scholarships enabled your program to use other monies for investment in quality of service, curriculum, educators, and/or infrastructure.
8. Revenue and expenditure statement, or Profit and Loss statement, demonstrating the cashflow of grant dollars.

A Complete Application Includes:

1. Complete Early Childhood Affordability grant application
2. Documentation of an active childcare license with the State of Oregon Office of Child Care
3. Proof of insurance commensurate with the coverage levels above
4. Documentation of the organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.)
5. Pricing and rate information
 - a. Note – if awarded grant funding, a provider may not increase their agreed rates to the households participating in the scholarship program for the duration of the award period
6. Documentation of non-profit status if applicable

Note: Underutilized funding shall be subject to recapture by the City of Ashland and may be re-awarded to performing programs or held in the General Fund for investment recommended by the Early Learning Ad Hoc Committee.

Providers may be required to comply with Ashland's living wage requirement. According to Ashland Municipal Code, if the amount of the grant is \$24,050.68 or more, Consultant is required to comply with Chapter 3.12 of the Ashland Municipal Code by paying a living wage, as defined in that chapter, to all employees performing Work under the grant agreement and to any Subcontractor who performs 50% or more of the Work under the grant agreement.



Better Together

City of Ashland Early Childhood Affordability Grant 2023 Application

ORGANIZATION LEGAL NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____

OTHER NAMES ORGANIZATION KNOWN BY (DBA)

ADDRESS

Street

City

State

Zip

FEDERAL EMPLOYER ID NUMBER (FEIN): _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$ _____

GRANT CONTACT:

Name _____

Title: _____

Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Certification

The information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Print Name

- b Outline of required information from the household used to evaluate their potential scholarship.

3. The goal of this program is to help address the financial gap between the market price of care and the ability to afford care. List any other funding sources that have been considered or received. (Such as Preschool Promise, Head Start, SNAP, foundations/donors, local employers, etc.)

Attach the following:

- documentation of non-profit status, if applicable
- documentation of state certification/licensure of applicant/childcare facilities
- documentation organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.)
- Provider rate/pricing structure

Submit application and required documentation to administration@ashland.or.us

Note: If awarded funds you will need to sign a contract with the City of Ashland and provide a W-9.

Please direct any questions to administration@ashland.or.us.