



General Meeting Agenda

ASHLAND GENERAL

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winbrun Way - 9:30 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/99672791353>

I. Call to Order

1. Confirmation of quorum present
2. Approval of draft minutes of 6/4/26 meeting (see agenda packet)
3. Suggested additions to today's agenda
4. Brief announcements

II. Public Forum

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Discussion of proposed recommendation to City Council for granting a portion of remaining affordability grant funds to the Ashland Community Health Foundation for establishing a "named fund" to support early learning/childcare programs (see agenda packet).
2. Review of the four submitted applications for Childcare Affordability Grants (see agenda packet).
3. Vote on allocation of the \$100,000 remaining of the Childcare Affordability Grant funds.

IV. Anticipation of August 6, 2026 Meeting

1. Approaching the Planning Commission about childcare in the Ashland Mills development.
2. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland
3. Suggestions for other topics.

V. Adjournment

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, including electronic attendance, please contact Kerrick Gooden at citymanageroffice@ashlandoregon.gov or 541.488.6002 (TTY phone number 1.800.735.2900). Notification at least three business days before the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.



**ASHLAND GENERAL
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING
MINUTES
June 4, 2026**

Siskiyou Room - 51 Winburn Way - 10:30 AM

These are DRAFT minutes until approved by the committee

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:32am

Present were Committee Members: John Love, Lisa Verner, Jessica Therkelsen, Anne Sebanc, Nancy Seward, and Paula Hyatt.

1. Confirmation of quorum present

Confirmed

2. Approval of draft minutes of 5/7/26 meeting (see agenda packet)

Love offered a correction under 'brief announcements': Change from Sebanc to Therkeslen (for who will reach out to Dee Ann Everson).

**Seward moved to approve minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Sebanc. All ayes.
Motion passed.**

3. Suggested additions to today's agenda

None

4. Brief announcements

Seward mentioned OSF is in process of offering once-per-month childcare for attendees, called Family Nights, but childcare is still lacking/wanting for actors/employees - committee discussed.

II. Public Forum

None

III. Continuation of Business from Previous Meetings

1. Discussion of potential partnering with the Ashland Schools Foundation or Ashland Community Health Foundation
 - a. Strategies for proceeding
 - b. Impact on City's Childcare Affordability Grants
 - c. Fundraising strategies
 - i. Engaging local businesses
 - ii. Grants
 - iii. Other

Love introduced the topic regarding how this group might continue its work after sunseting as an ad-hoc advisory committee.

Hyatt spoke of a meeting with Deputy City Manager Rooklyn, Heidi Hill of the Ashland Family YMCA, and Joseph Hattrick of the Ashland School District regarding the potential to partner with the Ashland Schools Foundation (ASF). Discussion from that meeting included that a charter change would be needed for ASF to address pre-K childcare and that the ASF board decides funding allocations.

Love, Hyatt, and Sebanc met with staff from the Ashland Community Health Foundation (ACHF), who responded with excitement to partner. Reflections included clear alignment for promoting childcare for all ages, as they define health broadly (holistically). Avenues for partnership could include a fiscal sponsorship format (requires a 501c3) or a named fund that could be earmarked for an identified purpose with parameters. It was noted that Soroptimist is an example that has a named fund with

ACHF.

Love also reflected on meeting with the Oregon Community Foundation regarding donor-advised funds: there may be existing donor-advised funds that may be interested in supporting this work.

The committee reflected on compatibility with these organizations and considered the potential to draft a recommendation to Council for a gift agreement to a foundation with a portion of the remaining childcare grant funds when it reviews applications. If it decides to do so, this body would make a recommendation as a package to send to council for recommended allocations.

2. Approaching the Planning Commission about childcare in the Ashland Mills development.
3. Updating data on existing early learning/childcare slots in Ashland

IV. Anticipation of July 2, 2026 Meeting

The committee discussed difficulties related to the next scheduled July 2 regular meeting, the importance of reviewing grant applications received by the June 19th, 2026 deadline, and the importance of issuing a timely recommendation to Council regarding funding allocations for the Affordable Childcare Grant Program.

The committee decided to move its next meeting to June 30th, 2026 from 9:30-11am. Gooden reserved the Siskiyou Room and will offer Zoom attendance for maximum attendance as requested. Gooden will also secure a substitute staff liaison to attend in his absence.

1. Continue discussion of topics carrying over from today's agenda.
2. Suggestions for other topics.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43am



TO: Ashland City Council
FROM: Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning
DATE: June 30, 2026
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Moving Beyond the Ad Hoc Committee

The Ashland City Council created this ad hoc committee in June 2023, and we have been meeting almost every month since then. Among other activities, we have administered grants awarded under the city's Early Childcare Affordability Grant Program in the amount of \$235,000 in each of the past two bienniums (2023-2025 and 2025-2027). It is now time to transition because (1) it is likely that council will not have the budget resources to fund additional affordability grants in the next biennium, and (2) as an ad hoc committee, it seems time to sunset.

Members of the committee have been considering strategies for continuing to support childcare and early learning beyond the ad hoc committee's existence. We have found a way of building on the city's nearly half million-dollar investment while honoring the vision that led to creation of the committee and the affordability grant program. Having met with staff of the Ashland Community Health Foundation, we have found them eager to embrace early learning as a vital element of family and community health. Working with ACHF, the City can create a "named fund" within the foundation that will be specifically designed to receive donations that are designated to support both early learning/childcare providers and parents through grants to programs, thereby fulfilling the same purposes of the City's Early Childcare Affordability Grant Program.

Therefore, as the City of Ashland strategically plans its ongoing support of early learning access and affordable childcare solutions, the Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning recommends partnering with the Ashland Community Health Foundation. This partnership will facilitate continued focus on this vital community need and open new pathways for future funding. To establish this relationship, we recommend that the Ashland City Council allocate \$25,000 of the remaining \$100,000 in the Early Childcare Affordability Grant Program to establish a named fund within the ACHF. We believe this will create the following benefits to the Ashland community:

1. Engage an established and highly regarded partner capable of continuing the mission for the long term
2. Support both infrastructure projects that increase access as well as scholarships and staffing support to facilitate affordability and quality of care
3. Strengthen the financial stability of low-income families
4. Enhance children's kindergarten readiness and enrollment in our community's schools
5. Foster economic development by attracting new workers to our community and retaining current workers.

Additionally, and crucial to the continued mission, being a named fund within the ACHF allows fundraising opportunities that are outside of our current capabilities. An ACHF partnership will help leverage additional philanthropic support from individuals, local businesses, and foundations, thus enabling this initiative to continue building on past investments into the future.

Simultaneously, the City of Ashland can continue its policy support of early learning access and affordable childcare by engaging the Housing and Human Services Advisory Committee in conjunction with the City of Ashland's Social Services Grants. If Council sets policy direction that allows the ACHF to apply for social services grant funds, then Council can continue to fund this work on a year-by-year basis. Such a step would also ensure that current Council direction does not bind future Council bodies.

In summary, the core purpose of the proposed named fund within the Ashland Community Health Foundation is to address childcare affordability, improve families' access to early learning programs, and support the wellbeing of Ashland families with children under the age of five. This goal fits exceptionally well with ACHF's mission of partnering with local organizations to "enhance the health of our community by advancing innovative and equitable approaches to health and wellness." Early learning unequivocally supports the health of the child and by extension their caregivers. Uniting the City of Ashland's early learning initiatives with ACHF's commitment to health and wellbeing amplifies our ability to work together in support of families and takes this work to the next level, potentially for many years into the future.

In conclusion, the Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Childcare and Early Learning unanimously recommends that the Ashland City Council create a named fund with the Ashland Community Health Foundation and grant ACHF the amount of \$25,000 to initiate its grantmaking process.

For questions or additional information, please contact committee chair John Love.

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [City Managers Office](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application
Date: Friday, June 19, 2026 3:22:39 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application

Contact Name	Heidi Hill
Email Address	development@ashlandymca.org
Phone Number	541-482-9622 ext 313
Address	540 YMCA Way
City	Ashland
State	OR
Zip Code	97520
Organization Legal Name	Young Men's Christian Association of Ashland
DBA or Alternative Name	Ashland Family YMCA
Amount Requested	\$99,999
Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN)	93-0386976
Outline of organizational priorities/mission and values, equity commitment, childcare philosophy, history, board membership, etc.	<p>Organizational Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve people of all ages, races, religions and incomes by creating a community focused on wellbeing and bringing people together.• Deliver excellent Health and Wellness activities, facilities, and programs for audiences and people of all ages.• Offer quality youth development programs and opportunities to ensure every child has a chance to reach their full potential. No one is turned away for the inability to pay. <p>Mission: The Ashland Family YMCA exists to fulfill human potential and enrich the quality of life for those we serve through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.</p> <p>Values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.</p>

Equity Commitment: The Ashland Family YMCA is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, and safe space for all. We are dedicated to building bridges, increasing our knowledge, understanding, and bringing people together to advance equity and create positive change at our YMCA. All are welcome here.

Childcare Philosophy: We are dedicated to providing high-quality early childhood education and childcare for our community. The Y offers a place where children are safe, loved, and encouraged to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. Preschool with the Ashland Family YMCA is a developmental, play-based learning program emphasizing child interest and exploration. We teach a research-based curriculum called "Smart Teach."

History in Youth Development: The Ashland Family YMCA has been serving our local community since 1899 and is committed to nurturing the potential of children and teens, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. The Y is dedicated to building healthy, confident, connected and secure children, adults, families and communities. We are a trusted childcare provider in the Rogue Valley, with afterschool care at four sites in Ashland and preschool at four sites (two in Ashland, one in Talent and one in Medford at Orchard Hill Elementary), and summer day camps at our main facility and overnight camp at YMCA Camp DeBoer.

Board Membership: The Ashland Family YMCA has a history of governance by a voluntary board of directors, whose membership includes donors, members, small business owners, and representatives of the community's faith, civic, business, health and legal sectors. Our board members are Ty Hisatomi, President; Chris Hearn, Vice President; Juli DiChiro, Secretary; Dwaine Dawson, Treasurer; Members at large: Alan DeBoer, Andrea Zundel, Carl Thomas, Emily Stone Rydbom, Jeff Schlecht, Kelly Burns, Kelly Madding and Paul Rostykus.

List of staff including any formal and continuing education and licensing.

Heidi Hill, CEO Ashland Family YMCA since September 2022. Heidi has worked administratively in Rogue Valley's health sector for over a decade. She holds a master's in healthcare administration, and a BS in Public Policy and Public Administration, from Walden University. Heidi's work has focused on the intersection of healthcare and investments in the Social Determinants of Health. She recognizes that education and early learning are key cornerstones to long term health and educational outcomes.

Suzie Sanders, YMCA Preschool Director. Suzie has been teaching preschool in the Rogue Valley for 22 years. She has an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education, from Rogue Community College. Suzie has her Qualified Mental Health

Associate (QMHA) from the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon. Suzie is a step 10 on the Oregon Registry, as well as being bilingual in Spanish and English.

Kayla Douglas, Lead YMCA Preschool Teacher at Walker Elementary. Kayla has a BA in Elementary Education with a minor in Social Emotional Learning from SOU. Kayla is a step 10 on the Oregon registry. Kaylam has been teaching in preschool classrooms for two years and will be starting with the Ashland Family YMCA this summer.

Jules Boufford, Lead YMCA preschool teacher at Helman Elementary. Jules has a master's degree in teaching from SOU. Jules is a step 11 on the Oregon registry. Jules has been teaching for seven years, with the last two at the Ashland Family YMCA.

Tiffany Welch, Lead YMCA Preschool Teacher at Helman/ Preschool Coordinator. Tiffany has a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. Tiffany is a Step 7.5 in the Oregon Registry and has been teaching in the field for seven years.

Description of type of childcare services offered

A community partnership with the Ashland School District has made our program possible. Families have the convenience of local site locations, and preschool students stand to benefit from educational transitions into elementary school settings that will be familiar to them through the Y's Preschool Program. The goal for the Ashland Family Y is to support working families by providing preschoolers with a strong foundation for their elementary years.

The Ashland Family YMCA's licensed preschool programs in Ashland serve children ages 3-5 at Helman and Walker Elementary Schools with full and half day options available Monday-Friday 7:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and 7:45 a.m.-12 p.m., respectively. Total number of seats available at the two classroom sites is 37, and we expect all 37 seats to be full by the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

The current licensing capacity per room is 20, for a total of 20 seats. However, due to the currently size of the Walker Elementary play yard, we are only able to accommodate 17 at that site until expansion of the play yard occurs, as noted in the infrastructure investment request portion of this grant.

Staffing ratio: We aim for a ratio of 1:6, while licensing requires 1:10

Program year - Calendar or Academic Calendar: September 8, 2026 – August 27, 2027

If you are licensed to serve infants and/or toddlers: toddlers age 3-5 only

Website, if any: ashlandymca.org

Select Grant Application Type

Sliding Scale Scholarships (complete section A.), Infrastructure Investment (complete section B), Staffing Support, Inclusive Special Needs Programming and/or Behavioral Support (complete section C)

List any other funding sources that have been considered or received. (Such as Preschool Promise, Head Start, SNAP, foundations/donors, local employers, etc.)

The Ashland Family YMCA seeks multiple areas of funding to assure all families can access our early childhood education programs. These sources include:

- Employment related day care (ERDC) benefits: 1 family awarded in 25-26 year
- Foundation and agency grants: Reed and Carolee Walker foundation (26-27 confirmed), United Way of Jackson County (26-27 confirmed), City of Ashland (9 children awarded in 25-26 in the amount of \$50,000. 26-27 grant pending),
- Ashland Family YMCA financial assistance: (9 children awarded in 25-26 in the amount of \$54,450, 26-27 funding depending on other supports) One support for this funding is through a YMCA volunteer led annual scholarships for kids campaign that raises funds for memberships and child focused programs. Dollars are allocated to programs based on need.

(Section Break)

If you are applying for Sliding Scale Scholarships, fill out section A, below

A. Proposed draft sliding scale used to identify/verify the level of need and priority in awarding affordability scholarships.

We are applying for \$55,000 in scholarship support.

Please view the submitted document “2026-27 YMCA Preschool Flyer and Financial Assistance Sliding Fee Scale” (uploaded under Provider Rate and Pricing structure) . This flyer provides information for applying for state assistance through ODHS along with qualifying income per household. It also has a chart showing YMCA preschool assistance if a family does not qualify for state assistance. The chart shows the percentage discount by income and household size. If applying for YMCA financial assistance, the family will submit a “Membership and Program Support” application along with documentation. Their documentation will verify if they live/work in Ashland and their income via submission of a W-2, pay stub and/or verification of address. We will use this data to identify all eligible families for the City of Ashland Early Childhood Affordability grant Program (ECAP). Those eligible will then be divided into levels of need and be awarded a percentage discount per month based on the grant funds received. In the 2025-2026 school year, Ashland Family YMCA was awarded \$50,000 from the ECAP program and used this to support requests from 9 families living and/or working in

Ashland.

Full time (7:45 – 5:30 pm) childcare tuition is \$1,600 per child per month or \$16,000 for a 10-month school year (Sept – June).

Part time (7:45 – 12 pm) childcare tuition is \$1,200 per child per month or \$12,000 for a 10-month school year (Sept – June).

These prices will not increase in the 2026-2027 school year.

Depending on requests, the Ashland Family YMCA will allocate funding dollars as appropriate from the various funding sources (foundations, ECAP, Y financial assistance dollars). Our mission is to turn no children away for inability to pay.

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

We ask families to provide the number of people in their household and to provide either page 1 of their most recent tax return showing dependents and gross income or other documents showing 30 days of income (pay stubs, child/spousal support, student loans, social security, unemployment, other.) We also provide a space for additional information regarding the need for financial assistance (i.e. medical bills, recent job loss, fleeing domestic abuse, etc.)

If you are applying for Infrastructure Investment, fill out section B, below
For projects between \$0 and \$24,999, include two quotes. For projects between \$25,000 and more, provide three quotes. If three quotes are not received, make a note of which agencies did not respond to the request for quote.

B. Project description, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need.

We are applying for \$24,999 in Infrastructure Investment support.

The request for funding is to upgrade/enhance the section of the play yard at Walker Elementary that is allotted for the Y's preschool program at that location and is not used for other purposes. The outside area is in dire need of redoing to ensure it is safe, adequate, and enlarged slightly to extend the approval for 3 more preschool slots. This is a shovel ready project, pun intended, one time investment that will assure future sustainability of this space thru increased expansion of the number of children who can access this site.

This work will involve the removal of current sod and dirt, installation of synthetic grass in the outdoor area, mounting a secure gate for the area and assuring the area meets the adequate size for 20 children (currently only adequate size for 17 children per regulations). This will not only make the play space more usable year-round, which is particularly subject to becoming unusable when muddy, but will also make it more secure and increase the overall capacity for the program. Note:

The Walker Elementary preschool program does have a waiting list, so we are certain those three additional slots can be filled quickly upon completion of this project. Parents have expressed desire to only have their children at Walker, as that will be the school they would eventually attend in kindergarten. This reinforces the Early Childhood Affordability Grant Program's goal to propel kindergarten readiness.

We have pasted two quotes for the work below as there was not upload option. (hard copies available upon request):

1: Figueroa's Landscaping @ \$29,676

2: Evolved Landscaping @ \$18,775

Upon consultation with Ashland School District Department Director, Steve Mitzel, we are seeking funding to support the lowest quote from Evolved Landscaping. However, please note this quote does not cover the synthetic grass or staples, so we are requesting a higher amount to cover those eventual costs. The quote also does not cover the installation of a gate, and without that quoted amount we are not asking for coverage of that cost at this time but will work with the Ashland School District to ensure installation of a gate for safety purposes.

Timeline of activities:

July 2026: Notification of ECAP award

July 2026: seek permits as necessary

August 2026: begin work as noted by quotes: Removal of lawn and soil, installation of $\frac{3}{4}$ minus and compact, installation of sand, installation of synthetic lawn.

August 2026: seek inspection as necessary

September 2026: School starts with 3 new seats available!

QUOTES:

Quote #1: LANDSCAPING PROPOSAL

Figueroa's Landscaping & Construction, LLC 04/13/2026

P.O. Box. 4709. LCB #9664

Medford, Oregon 97501 CCB # 222017

(541) 601-1287 Mobile

INS#BKS54495468

Ashland School District

c/o Walker Elementary.

885 Siskiyou Boulevard

Ashland, OR 97520

Figueroa's Landscaping & Construction, LLC. will furnish all required materials, labor and dump

fees for the proposed project at Walker Elementary, 364 Walker Ave. Ashland, OR 97520 The

scope of work for this project is as follows.

Installation of 1,092 sq. ft. of ForeverLawn Playground Grass.

Components and Materials

- Remove existing sod and 6" of soil for the preparation of the

sub-base.

- Playground Grass Academy turf will be used as the primary surface material.
- Envirofill, a non-rubber, non-toxic and mold resistant infill, will be applied.
- Glue and seam tape will be utilized for proper installation to secure joining turf sections.
- Nailer boards around existing concrete edge and all necessary materials for the sub-base

preparation with compacted 3" of 3/4" minus clean gravel.

The total cost for the above scope of work is \$ 29,676.00

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gumaro Figueroa – Owner.

Figueroa's Landscaping & Construction, LL

Quote #2:

Proposal

DATE:

05/12/26

Evolved Landscapes

OWNER-Jake Contreras

OFFICE

725 Beach St.

Ashland Oregon, 97520

Phone

541-941-4678

Email

Evolvedlandscapes@gmail.com

Jobsite: Walker Elementary

Ashland

Description of work performed: remove all lawn and 6 inches of soil. import 3/4 minus and compact. One inch of sand will be evenly distributed over 3/4 minus before synthetic lawn is installed.

NOTE:price does not include synthetic lawn and staples.

Item Price

Labor \$9,875

Kx 18 Excavator \$3,450
SVL 75 skid steer \$1,125
¾ minus \$850
Sand \$550
Wheelbarrow on tracks \$300
Trucking \$2,150
Soil/lawn removal \$475
Total \$18,775

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If you are applying for Staffing Support, fill out Section C, below

C. Please describe the type of staffing resources supported by this grant request.

We are applying for \$20,000 in staffing resources support.

These funds will be used for on-going staff skills development throughout the year, and not for FTE/wage support. The training funds will support approximately 22 staff members for required and ongoing training opportunities to meet both licensure requirements and educational needs. Ashland Family YMCA always seeks free training supports first before using grant or program funds. There are many supports provided through the State Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) and the Southern Oregon Early Learning HUB (SOELS), however, there are still costs incurred with some trainings. Please see the inserted budget below.

The Ashland Family YMCA's philosophy to early childhood education involves three fundamental pillars:

1. Attract and retain high-quality staff: we offer livable wages with benefits; a majority are full-time positions. We also offer ongoing training and support for licensing requirements.
2. Maintain a lower than required staffing ratio: we aim to maintain a 1:6 ratio, while our licensure requires a 1:10 ratio. This helps to prevent staff burnout while dealing with challenging behaviors and maintaining a quality educational environment at the same time.

3. Reduce disruptions in classrooms: we are proud that our investment in staff (FTE and training) resulted in zero closures last year, due to staff shortages. Closure disruptions are difficult for families and children, and therefore we train all early childhood staff to work in all of our centers to maintain flexibility in staffing as needed.

Note: We have uploaded the documentation for licensure at Walker Elementary. We have a similar licensure at Helman Elementary, but there was not a space to upload both. It is available by request.

C. How many full-time equivalents (FTE's) will the grant request support, and for what duration (ex. 6-months, 1 year)?

These funds will be used for approximately 19.7 FTE (22 total staff) to access training opportunities throughout the year from July 2026 to June 2027.

Staff training funded through the grant allows us to maintain a lower ratio, through better supported staff, and to better support all children in our program. Staff support allows us to maintain a quality program that allows for maintaining staff retention by decreasing burnout. As the State of Oregon moves to implement the Every Child Belongs Oregon (ECB) program, we plan to keep our staff to student ratios low to help teachers manage challenging behaviors in the classroom and teach the necessary social emotional skills for children to remain safely in the classroom.

The Every Child Belongs program, formerly known as the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program, is designed to help early learning and care providers create inclusive, nurturing, and responsive environments for children from 6 weeks to 5 years old in Oregon. The program addresses the disproportionate rates of suspension and expulsion among children of color and children with disabilities, aiming to promote equity and prevent negative long-term outcomes in education, social development, and family stability.

C. What qualifications are required to meet the staffing resource objectives?

There are three levels of training that the Ashland Family YMCA supports for our early childhood staff:

Level one – Onboarding: The Ashland Family YMCA assures staff joining the agency meet all of the required onboarding training needs, including but not limited to: an orientation within the first 10 days of hire; before having unsupervised access to children, training in - reporting child abuse and neglect, within 30 days of hire; introduction to child care health and safety within 30 days of hire; food handlers within 30 days of hire; pediatric first aid and CPR within 90 days of hire; and the foundation of learning training within 90 days of hire.

Level two – Licensing training: Staff that have met initial training requirements also have ongoing training requirements, including but not limited to: All teachers, substitutes (some exceptions), aides 1 & 2, and Multi-Site Coordinators must have: 15 ongoing annual training hours, which includes 8 hours in the child development category, and at least 1 hour in the health, safety and nutrition category.

Level three – Program Director support: As our early childhood education program continues to grow, with the addition of new sites in the Phoenix/Talent school district in 26-27, we are reorganizing our staffing model to assure adequate program management. Preschool program Directors are required to have 10 hours of training in Program Management within the first year. Additionally, our current Preschool Director, Suzie Sanders, has obtained her Qualified Mental Health Associate (QMHA) degree from the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO) to ensure the Ashland Family YMCA is able to effectively implement the Every Child Belongs Oregon program.

Funding requests for 3 levels of training:

Level one: 3 new staff for onboarding training at \$1000

Level 2: 20 staff for ongoing licensure training at \$10,000

Level 3: 1 Director for Program management training at \$5,000, 1 Director for ongoing QMHA training hours at \$1,800, plus test costs \$200, 1 Director attendance at National YMCA conference at \$2000

Total cost: \$20,000

C. How does the addition of the staff member enable greater program capacity, expand program offerings, or add program support?

These funds will be used for on-going staff skills development throughout the year, and not for FTE/wage support. The training funds will support approximately 22 staff members for required and ongoing training opportunities to meet both licensure requirements and educational needs.

By having all staff trained in a variety of social emotional, programmatic and behavioral health areas, we can support our goal of reducing disruptions and closures in classrooms. All staff are able to fill in at multiple locations to ensure ongoing coverage for families and children. We repeatedly hear of other facilities needing to close due to lack of staffing resources, and we are proud of our ability to staff to a level where this has not been necessary to date. In addition, by having additional staff support, we can provide the full day hours at all of our sites.

Staff support also allows us to maintain a quality program that supports staff retention by decreasing burnout. This is will be increasingly important as the State of Oregon moves to implement the Every Child Belongs Oregon (ECB) program, which requires a reduction in expulsions and suspensions to

support equity in early childhood education programming.

(Section Break)

Upload the the following documents:

Documentation of state certification/licensure of applicant/childcare facilities [Walker Preschool License 2025.pdf](#)

Proof of Insurance [COI - State of Oregon \(004\).pdf](#)

Documentation of organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.) [ASHLAND FAMILY YMCA 2024 TAX RETURNS.pdf](#)

Proof of site control – for example deed, property tax statement, lease agreement or long-term rental agreement [ASD and AFYMCA 2026-2027 MOU.pdf](#)

Provider rate/pricing structure [2026-2027 YMCA Preschool Flyer and Financial Assistance Sliding Fee Scale.pdf](#)

Documentation of non-profit status, if applicable [Documentation of non-profit status.pdf](#)

Electronic Signature Agreement I agree.

Electronic Signature Jenny Gunter

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [City Managers Office](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 12:36:49 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application

Contact Name	Andrea Johnson
Email Address	averystmontessori@gmail.com
Phone Number	541-690-2224
Address	374 Avery St.
City	Ashland
State	OR
Zip Code	97520
Organization Legal Name	Avery Street Montessori LLC
DBA or Alternative Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Amount Requested	40,000
Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN)	87-1380244
Outline of organizational priorities/mission and values, equity commitment, childcare philosophy, history, board membership, etc.	Avery Street Montessori opened in June 2021. It operates as a Registered Family childcare home in Ashland, OR. The program is operated by Owner and Lead Teacher Andrea Johnson. The program's core philosophy is to meet the needs of the whole child. It focuses on creating an environment that engages the senses and inspires autonomy with a major emphasis placed on teaching values of kindness and respect—specifically respecting oneself, others, the school, and showing kindness to all living things. Avery Street Montessori maintains a zero-tolerance policy for any form of racism, sexism, bigotry, or any other forms of discrimination. The parent handbook explicitly states that teachers accept and respect diversity, and focus on encouraging interactions of kindness and inclusion while welcoming and celebrating differences.
List of staff including	Staff members hold educational backgrounds in early childhood

any formal and continuing education and licensing.

education and extended higher learning in Montessori teacher education. All staff members follow the requirements for professional development outlined by the State of Oregon's description of a Registered Family Childcare Home.

Before operating, or immediately upon hire, all staff and caregivers must complete and submit verification for the following mandatory trainings:

Central Background Registry (CBR): Active enrollment in the state's registry (requiring an FBI fingerprint background check) is an absolute prerequisite before having contact with children.

Pediatric CPR & First Aid Certification: Must be a current, valid certification.

Food Handlers Certification: A current Oregon Food Handler's card.

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (RRCAN): The standard state-approved training course.

Introduction to Child Care Health and Safety (ICCHS): A CCLD-approved course covering infectious disease, medication administration, and emergency preparedness.

Safe Sleep for Oregon's Infants: A CCLD-approved infant sleep safety training.

Foundations for Learning: A child development training course that must be completed within 90 days of becoming a provider/staff member.

To maintain and renew a Registered Family Childcare license, staff must complete professional development hours that are formally vetted and tracked by the Oregon Registry Online (ORO):

10-Hour Clock Requirement: A minimum of 10 clock hours of professional development training must be completed during the two years prior to the license renewal date. At least 6 of the 10 clock hours must be directly related to recognized Child Development Core Knowledge Categories. A minimum of 1 clock hour of training from the Health, Safety, and Nutrition category must be completed each year of the two-year licensing period.

Description of type of childcare services offered

The curriculum blends art, nature, and developmentally appropriate, hands-on academic learning inspired by the Montessori Method. The program provides lessons on peaceful conflict resolution through a guided "work it out" process that teaches children to acknowledge feelings, take ownership of actions, and understand cause and effect. While inspiring autonomy, teachers are providing direct guidance towards independent toileting, handwashing, and dressing while also allowing freedom of choice with the learning materials and environment. The program offers a curriculum that weaves together thematic learning, art, environmental education, and community. It features an indoor Montessori classroom for age-appropriate academic activities, early literacy, numeracy development, and free-choice imaginative play. The services emphasize outdoor learning and play through any weather

conditions, rain, snow, or shine. The outdoor yard space includes areas dedicated to gardening, digging, building, and provides ample opportunity for lessons in seasonal botany and ecology. Daily services provide child guidance toward independent handwashing, dressing, and independent toileting. The program received a state childcare division exemption allowing it to expand its capacity to serve up to 8 children between the ages of 2 and 3 years old to meet local toddler-aged care needs. Such capacity requires a Four to One student teacher ratio, confirming the need for a co-teacher to be present. Services are offered 4 days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Children staying until 2:00 PM have a short rest and story time period in the afternoon. Avery Street Montessori's website is <https://averystreetmontessori.com/>

Select Grant Application Type

Sliding Scale Scholarships (complete section A.), Staffing Support, Inclusive Special Needs Programming and/or Behavioral Support (complete section C)

List any other funding sources that have been considered or received. (Such as Preschool Promise, Head Start, SNAP, foundations/donors, local employers, etc.)

None

(Section Break)

If you are applying for Sliding Scale Scholarships, fill out section A, below

A. Proposed draft sliding scale used to identify/verify the level of need and priority in awarding affordability scholarships.

Due to the growing costs of operating a small business, tuition for students was increased by \$1.00 per hour for the 2026/2027 school year. To help families with this increase, Avery Street Montessori would like to offer scholarships to create more accessibility for those that qualify. The scholarship program will be used for tuition assistance for eligible families, though it may not cover the full tuition amount for the school year. Because some families experience financial struggles, this tuition assistance will make it possible for them to enroll for the full-day care option, allowing them more focused time in their professional lives.

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

Avery Street Montessori will be responsible for assessing an individual household's financial needs. Financial needs will be established and verified by reviewing the household's most recent W-2 or pay stub. Households may receive affordability scholarships through June 2027. The program will strictly serve households earning at or below 200% of the Jackson County Median Income (complying with the city's specific household tier caps from \$154,216 to \$285,636 depending on size).

If you are applying for Infrastructure Investment, fill out section B, below
For projects between \$0 and \$24,999, include two quotes. For projects between \$25,000 and more, provide three quotes. If three quotes are not received, make a note of which agencies did not respond to the request for quote.

B. Project description, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need.

Field not completed.

If you are applying for Staffing Support, fill out Section C, below

C. Please describe the type of staffing resources supported by this grant request.

The grant request will support two teaching positions: one "full-time" co-teacher and one part-time substitute teacher to be utilized as needed.

C. How many full-time equivalents (FTE's) will the grant request support, and for what duration (ex. 6-months, 1 year)?

The grant will support one full-time position and one part-time position. Full-time describes the length of the Avery Street is open including half hour before children arrive and as much as 1 hour after children have departed. Allowing time for reset, cleaning, and staff meeting. These staff members will be hired for the duration of the 10-month school year, with an option to work during the summer break. The grant will be elemental in off-setting payroll cost and allowing a livable wage.

C. What qualifications are required to meet the staffing resource objectives?

To meet the staffing resource objectives and satisfy the State of Oregon's Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) and Child Care Licensing Division (CCLD) requirements for a Registered Family Childcare Home, staff must meet the following qualifications:

Background Clearance: Active enrollment in the Central Background Registry (CBR).

Health & Safety Certifications: A current, valid Pediatric CPR & First Aid certification and a current Oregon Food Handler's card.

Mandatory Training: Completion of the standard state-approved training courses for Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (RRCAN), Introduction to Child Care Health and Safety (ICCHS), and Safe Sleep for Oregon's Infants.

Core Training: Completion of the Foundations for Learning child development training course within 90 days of employment.

Grant Requirement: Completion of Abuse Prevention Training as

mandated by the City of Ashland.

Additional Training: Staff also has required professional development hours, the grant funds will help off set the payroll costs, making it easier for Avery Street to provide such training through meaningful trainings to better the quality of care.

C. How does the addition of the staff member enable greater program capacity, expand program offerings, or add program support?

Following an assessment by a childcare division certifier, Avery Street Montessori received an exemption allowing up to 8 children between the ages of 2 and 3 years old at any given time. To serve this many children, two teachers must be present at all times to satisfy the state's 4 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio. The addition of this staff resource directly allows the program to care for an additional 4 students, expanding the total capacity to the exempt limit of 8 children. The addition of a part-time substitute ensures continuous program coverage and maintains the required 4 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio whenever the primary staff is unavailable.

(Section Break)

Upload the the following documents:

Documentation of state certification/licensure of applicant/childcare facilities

[Andrea Johnson certificate with exception.pdf](#)

Proof of Insurance

[25-26 Policy.PDF.pdf](#)

Documentation of organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.)

[intuit-intelligence-message-1781719331130.pdf](#)

Proof of site control – for example deed, property tax statement, lease agreement or long-term rental agreement

[Home Office Lease Agreement.pdf](#)

Provider rate/pricing structure

[2026_2027_pricing_structure.pdf](#)

Documentation of non-profit status, if

Field not completed.

applicable

Electronic Signature
Agreement

I agree.

Electronic Signature

Andrea Johnson

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Kerrick Gooden

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 9:02 PM
To: City Managers Office
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application

Contact Name	Ella
Email Address	ellasclassroom.ashland@gmail.com
Phone Number	5418913335
Address	518 Washington St
City	Ashland
State	OR
Zip Code	97520
Organization Legal Name	Ella's Classroom LLC
DBA or Alternative Name	ABC Montessori
Amount Requested	\$37,500
Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN)	93-3193788
Outline of organizational priorities/mission and values, equity commitment, childcare philosophy, history, board membership, etc.	ABC Montessori Early Learning Center is a certified Montessori Bilingual school located in Ashland, OR. We serve children from birth to six years old and we also offer an after school program service for children from 7 to 10 years old. Our school began operating on September 4, 2023 as a registered family childcare program covering a license only for 10 children in our own home, after a few months we increased the capacity with some modifications we added 16 children becoming a certified

family program, this whole adventure began motivated by the desire to offer an authentic and high quality education for the community of Ashland and that would positively impact the life of my youngest daughter Charlotte. Due to the high demand of families and community growth, ABC Montessori evolved into a certified center that currently serves multiple Montessori communities. Our priority is to provide an authentic Montessori education based on deep love and respect for the child. We are committed to creating prepared environments that promote independence and integral development in addition to the love for learning, while supporting and educating children and families.

We are firmly committed to equity and inclusion by receiving every child and family with dignity, respect and a sense of belonging, we value the diversity of our community and we strive to ensure that all children have access to positive, enriching learning experiences that honor their strengths and support their individual and collective needs at all times.

Our educational philosophy is inspired by the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, recognizing each child as a capable, competent and active builder of their own learning. We believe that we adults have the responsibility to create safe and enriching environments, guiding our children with sensitivity, respect and stimulating self-confidence.

ABC Montessori is led by Ella Jorgensen founder and director together with my husband Chris Jorgensen who we share the commitment to build an educational community where children feel loved, respected, supported safe, independent and able to contribute actively and positively to the future of our society.

List of staff including any formal and continuing education and licensing.

We are currently a team of 13 people
Ella Jorgensen - Director
Chris Jorgensen - Sud Director
Cesar Justo - Chef
Eliezer Ramos - P.E Teacher
Osleidy Ramos - Teacher (Nest Environment 0-18 Months)
Yesenia Ortiz - Assistant (Nest Environment 0-18 Months)
Adeline Canchola - Teacher (Nest Environment 18 - 24 Months)
Yosbeidys Escalona Assistant (Nest Environment 18 - 24 Months)
Carolina García - Teacher (Infant Community 2 - 3 Years)
Alecxa Meza - Assistant (Infant Community 2 - 3 Years)
Alisson Rozo - Teacher (Children's House 3-6 Years)
Diana Nunez - Teacher (CHildren's House 3-6 Years)

Maria Guadalupe Mora - Assistant (Children's House 3-6 Years)

Description of type of childcare services offered	ABC Montessori is a Certified Child Care Center. Our Program currently operate 4 Classrooms serving infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children through mixed-age Montessori communities designed to support each stage of development. The center is licensed to serve up to 48 children and currently has approximately 48 seats filled. Our classrooms include: Nest Environment : Moonlight: 8 Infants 2 Adults: Full Infant Community A : Starlight: 10 Toddlers 2 Adults: Full Infant Community B: Sunrise: 10 Toddlers 2 Adults: Full Children's House: Skylight: 17 Preschoolers 2 Adults: Full Infant Community C: Aurora: Currently with space for 3 children but with future expansion for 8 children We operate throughout the year from January to December.
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Select Grant Application Type	Infrastructure Investment (complete section B)
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List any other funding sources that have been considered or received. (Such as Preschool Promise, Head Start, SNAP, foundations/donors, local employers, etc.)	none
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(Section Break)

If you are applying for Sliding Scale Scholarships, fill out section A, below

A. Proposed draft sliding scale used to identify/verify the level of need and priority in awarding affordability scholarships.	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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A. Outline of required information from the household used to evaluate their potential scholarship.	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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If you are applying for Infrastructure Investment, fill out section B, below

For projects between \$0 and \$24,999, include two quotes. For projects between \$25,000 and more, provide three quotes. If three quotes are not received, make a note of which agencies did not respond to the request for quote.

B. Project description, including the need you are addressing and how this investment will solve the need.

ABC Montessori is requesting infrastructure funding to renovate and expand our existing Aurora classroom to increase access to infant and toddler care within our community. Aurora is currently an operational classroom; however, the existing space is too small to accommodate the growing demand for services. This project will involve remodeling the classroom by expanding the physical space, making the necessary modifications to meet licensing requirements, and equipping the environment with age-appropriate furniture and materials. Upon completion of the renovation, Aurora will be licensed to serve up to eight children from birth to 24 months of age, operating in compliance with Oregon licensing requirements and maintaining a staffing ratio of one adult for every four children (1:4).

This expansion directly addresses a critical community need. ABC Montessori currently maintains a waiting list, with the greatest demand coming from families seeking care for infants and toddlers between four months and three years of age. Increasing the capacity of the Aurora classroom will allow us to immediately offer additional childcare slots to families already waiting for services.

In addition to the Aurora expansion, ABC Montessori is requesting support to purchase and install a commercial playground structure valued at approximately \$13,000. During the previous grant cycle, our program successfully utilized grant funding to transform an undeveloped outdoor area into a high-quality learning and play environment that now includes safety surfacing, a sports court, a covered gathering space, and a greenhouse. The addition of a commercial playground structure will further enhance opportunities for physical development, outdoor exploration, and age-appropriate play experiences.

This investment will increase access to high-quality early childhood education, expand infant and toddler capacity, and strengthen the ability of ABC Montessori to meet the needs of working families in our community.

If you are applying for Staffing Support, fill out Section C, below

C. Please describe the type of staffing resources supported by this grant request.

Field not completed.

C. How many full-time equivalents (FTE's) will the grant request support, and for what duration (ex. 6-months, 1 year)?

Field not completed.

C. What qualifications are required to meet the staffing resource objectives?

Field not completed.

C. How does the addition of the staff member enable greater program capacity, expand program offerings, or add program support?

Field not completed.

(Section Break)

Upload the the following documents:

Documentation of state certification/licensure of applicant/childcare facilities

[ABC Montessori MV License Cert with exception 2026 March.pdf](#)

Proof of Insurance

[insurance with city OF ASHLAND.pdf](#)

Documentation of organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.)

[insurance with city OF ASHLAND 1.pdf](#)

Proof of site control – for example deed, property tax statement, lease agreement or long-term rental agreement

[518 washington lease \(1\).pdf](#)

Provider rate/pricing structure

[ABC Montessori Rates for 2025-26.pdf](#)

Documentation of non-profit status, if applicable *Field not completed.*

Electronic Signature Agreement I agree.

Electronic Signature Ella Jorgensen

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



From: noreply@civicplus.com
To: [City Managers Office](#)
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application
Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 8:01:18 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Early Childcare Affordability Grant Application

Contact Name	Jihan Nicholas
Email Address	mtnstarpreschool@gmail.com
Phone Number	541 326 9526
Address	185 N Mountain Ave
City	Ashland
State	OR
Zip Code	97520
Organization Legal Name	Mountain Star Preschool LLC
DBA or Alternative Name	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Amount Requested	\$23,000
Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN)	33-1294718

Outline of organizational priorities/mission and values, equity commitment, childcare philosophy, history, board membership, etc.

Mountain Star is entering its third school year of offering Waldorf-inspired preschool to Ashland families. Both toddlers and preschool age children enrolled during the recent school year and in previous and upcoming summer camps. We are excited to be considered for this grant as it will support Mountain Star's ability to provide high quality childcare to families who may not otherwise be able to afford it and to continue to grow as a new preschool.

Organizational Mission and Priorities

Our mission is to provide high-quality Waldorf early childhood education to all families in the Ashland area. We are committed to accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that families from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can benefit from a nurturing and developmentally appropriate learning environment. We value the

preservation and protection of early childhood, providing an environment free from technology, screens and media, which can be harmful to the development of infants, toddlers and preschool age children.

Equity Commitment

As a licensed childcare center, Mountain Star is able to accept families who receive Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) assistance. This makes us the only Waldorf preschool in Ashland offering equitable access to an educational approach that is often financially out of reach for many families. Our program prioritizes inclusivity and is designed to reflect the belief that every child deserves access to holistic, high-quality early childhood education. While we accept ERDC to make our program accessible to all families, we have found many people who would qualify based on their income are not able to receive the ERDC monies because the waitlist is so long.

Childcare Philosophy

Rooted in Waldorf principles, our educational philosophy honors the developmental needs of young children. Waldorf education is based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and aims to cultivate well-rounded individuals prepared for lifelong learning. We provide a therapeutic and rhythm-based environment that supports children in being fully present in their current stage of growth. Rather than pushing children to meet premature academic expectations, we focus on nurturing their natural curiosity, creativity, and emerging sense of self. We value the unique gifts each child brings and aim to foster joy, wonder, and a deep connection to the world around them. We introduce toys made of natural materials which are often hand-made, made of natural fibers and wood and metal as opposed to plastic. We seek to create a warm, gentle and lovely aesthetic in our classroom, that is calm, and sensory rich yet not overstimulating. Waldorf early childhood education emphasizes holistic development through play-based learning. It nurtures children's physical, emotional, and intellectual growth in a supportive environment.

Key Principles:

Play-Based Learning: Children engage in imaginative play, which is seen as essential for development.

Rhythms and Routines: Daily and seasonal rhythms provide stability and predictability.

Nature Connection: Outdoor activities and nature exploration are integral to the curriculum.

Artistic Expression: Creative activities like painting, music, and

storytelling foster self-expression and creativity.
 Mixed-Age Classrooms: Children of different ages learn from and with each other, promoting social skills and cooperation.
 Teacher's Role: Teachers act as facilitators, guiding children rather than directing their learning. They create a warm, nurturing atmosphere that encourages exploration and discovery.

History and Structure

Mountain Star is entering its third year of operation in the 2026-2027 school year. This year brings a significant structural change: the program is transitioning from a two-owner partnership to a single owner-operator model. While Mountain Star is officially licensed as a "center," it functions as a small, home-like program that will be led this year by one teacher-owner. Our licensing terms cap enrollment at 12 children when two teachers are present, but the classroom's square footage made a two-owner arrangement financially unsustainable at that scale. Under a single-teacher license, the cap is 10 children, which is a more viable ratio for one owner-operator. This prompted a partner buyout ahead of the 2026-2027 school year. Maximum enrollment is 10 children under the single-teacher license. If enrollment exceeds 10, a teaching assistant will be hired to maintain compliance and quality of care. Mountain Star remains committed to providing an intimate, stable, and relationship-centered environment that fosters strong connections between teachers, children, and families.

Governance and Leadership

Mountain Star does not have a formal board. The owner-teacher has specialized training in Waldorf pedagogy and child development and meets regularly with a retired Waldorf early childhood mentor who has decades of training and experience.

List of staff including any formal and continuing education and licensing.

Jihan Nicholas - Preschool Director/Owner Mountain Star Preschool
 AA in General Studies, Certified Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher through Sound Circle Center for Arts and Anthroposophy, Early Childhood Development Certificate from RCC, Pediatric First Aid/CPR certified

I have been approved by the State of Oregon as holding the requirements to qualify as Director of a state licensed preschool and taken all of the required continuing education courses required for licensing which included Portland State University's online class Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect for childcare providers. My license requires me to complete 15 hours continuing education annually.

Description of type of

Mountain Star Preschool is licensed to serve children ages 1

childcare services offered

through 6. We operate Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We offer up to 12 spots total, structured as follows:

Full time (4 days a week, Monday through Thursday): One spot per child

Part time (2 days a week): Available for younger children who are new to a childcare or preschool setting. Part-time families attend either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday. Two part-time spots share one full-time slot, so there are 2 Monday/Tuesday spots and 2 Wednesday/Thursday spots available.

Ratios are determined by enrollment numbers, as outlined by our license:

1:10 when up to 10 children are enrolled

1:6 when 11 or 12 children are enrolled (the 12 student cap is solely due to our square footage)

Mountain Star has one classroom and a large fenced play yard featuring a play structure and a vegetable and herb garden.

Current enrollment numbers

As this school year just completed, we are in the process of enrolling for 2026-2027 7 spots (2 part time, 5 full time) are confirmed and filled, and we have interest from families who haven't completed the enrollment process for the fall, as well as open houses throughout the summer to meet new potential families. We have one, mixed age classroom and currently offer 10 full time spots for children to be enrolled M-Th and we offer 4 part time spots for children either M/T or W/Th.

Academic calendar

We begin school in September and operate through mid-June. During the summer we offer weekly camps which focus on outdoor play, gardening, games and free play.

Preschool activities

We offer enriching activities that include open ended play time, both indoors and outdoors. We provide the children opportunities for dramatic play including dress up and make believe, allowing the children to express their creativity. We offer adult led story time and puppet shows, singing, circle time, cultural activities and enrichment. We plan activities that allow children to develop both fine and gross motor skills. We prioritize outdoor play every day in all weather.

Select Grant Application Type	Sliding Scale Scholarships (complete section A.)
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List any other funding sources that have been considered or received. (Such as Preschool Promise, Head Start, SNAP, foundations/donors, local employers, etc.)	ERDC
--	------

(Section Break)

If you are applying for Sliding Scale Scholarships, fill out section A, below

A. Proposed draft sliding scale used to identify/verify the level of need and priority in awarding affordability scholarships.	We will offer a flat 50% discount on our tuition for all Ashland families who qualify. We will use the reference provided by the City of Ashland, the qualifying families will be those whose households are at or below 200% of the Jackson County Median Income. They will verify their need by providing the information outlined in the following section. We will prioritize families seeking four day a week care, although applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis until all the funds have been allocated to enrolled families.
--	--

A. Outline of required information from the household used to evaluate their potential scholarship.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Basic family information- names, family composition, number of children, verify address of residence in Ashland or an employee of an Ashland based business.2. Financial information - A. employment, how long employed, location of employer or business if self-employed B. Other sources of income- child support, other family assistance or other public assistance C. Verify financial information by providing most recent W-2 or 3 months of most recent pay stubs
---	--

If you are applying for Infrastructure Investment, fill out section B, below
For projects between \$0 and \$24,999, include two quotes. For projects between \$25,000 and more, provide three quotes. If three quotes are not received, make a note of which agencies did not respond to the request for quote.

B. Project description, including the need you are addressing and	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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how this investment will solve the need.

If you are applying for Staffing Support, fill out Section C, below

C. Please describe the type of staffing resources supported by this grant request. *Field not completed.*

C. How many full-time equivalents (FTE's) will the grant request support, and for what duration (ex. 6-months, 1 year)? *Field not completed.*

C. What qualifications are required to meet the staffing resource objectives? *Field not completed.*

C. How does the addition of the staff member enable greater program capacity, expand program offerings, or add program support? *Field not completed.*

(Section Break)

Upload the the following documents:

Documentation of state certification/licensure of applicant/childcare facilities [Mountain Star certificate.pdf](#)

Proof of Insurance [Cert of Ins - CITY OF ASHLAND-2.PDF](#)

Documentation of organization's financial viability (990 tax form, recent income tax filings, liability insurance coverage, etc.) [Mtn Star Preschool 2025 Tax Returns.pdf](#)

Proof of site control – [MountainStarLease.pdf](#)

for example deed,
property tax statement,
lease agreement or
long-term rental
agreement

Provider rate/pricing structure	2026-2027 Tuition List.pdf
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Documentation of non-profit status, if applicable	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Electronic Signature Agreement	I agree.
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Electronic Signature	Jihan M Nicholas
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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)