



REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST (LOI)

Valdez Child Care Start-up Grant Program

Release Date: December 4, 2024

LOI Due Date: January 31, 2025

Program Contact: Blue Shibler, bshibler@aeyc-sea.org 907-723-9970

Purpose

Funded by the City of Valdez (COV) and managed by the Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (SEAAEYC), the Valdez Child Care Start-up Grant program will offer approximately \$200,000 in reimbursement-based funding for projects that will increase childcare availability in the community. Maximum grant awards for any one project will be \$25,000 for a family child care home, \$30,000 for a group home, and \$50,000 for a center. Selected projects will receive an invitation to submit a formal application. This Request for Letters of Interest (LOI) seeks to identify individuals or organizations interested in expanding licensed childcare services in Valdez and ensure equitable access to grant funds.

Funding Overview

The Valdez Child Care Start-up Grant program offers funding to support various project needs for successful applicants, including establishing new in-home childcare programs, expanding existing facilities to increase capacity, or developing childcare centers within entities such as businesses, nonprofits, and churches. Grant funds may be used for facility repairs and renovations, classroom furnishings, educational materials, safety, and compliance upgrades, licensing and permit fees, technology and administrative tools, professional development for staff, and outdoor play equipment or space improvements. Additionally, SEAAEYC will provide technical assistance to help applicants navigate the childcare licensing process and establish a childcare business in Valdez.

LOI Evaluation

Upon submission of your Letter of Interest (LOI) for the Valdez Child Care Start-up Grant program, your proposal will be evaluated for alignment with program objectives and potential for successful implementation. The assessment will consider your experience and qualifications, including relevant certifications and background in child care or related fields, to gauge your preparedness for initiating or expanding a program. It will also examine the clarity and feasibility of your project description, including the proposed location and services to address Valdez's childcare needs. A budget summary outlining anticipated expenses and other funding sources for the proposed project will be evaluated for

sustainability. In-kind contributions and partnerships, including collaborations with local businesses, nonprofits, or community organizations, will also be considered as factors enhancing feasibility and impact. Selected applicants will be invited for an informal interview to discuss project feasibility further, clarify proposal aspects, and provide additional details. By thoroughly addressing these elements, your LOI will offer a comprehensive overview to ensure a fair and informed evaluation and to determine if moving toward a funding application is the next step.

How to Submit a LOI

Please email letters of interest that address the items listed below to bshibler@aeyc-sea.org no later than 2:00 PM on the **above due date**. If you have any questions regarding your submission, please email or call Blue Shibler.

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Valdez Child Care Start-up and Expansion Program Letter of Interest (LOI) Form

- 1) Provide the following information:
 - a. Individual Name:
 - b. Home Address:
 - c. Phone:
 - d. Email Address:

- 2) Provide a concise project summary for your proposed child care program that includes relevant details about your experience in child care, if applicable. Describe your project plan in a brief narrative, outlining your vision for the program. If you own or lease a potential project site, include the address; if not, provide any relevant details about a future site. Summarize your proposed budget, highlighting critical project needs such as facility improvements, equipment, or staffing. Additionally, mention any in-kind contributions or support from yourself or other entities that will enhance the feasibility of your project.