



No Child Left Inside Grant Program 2019 Phase 1 Mini Grants

Request for Proposals - Instructions and Information

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is excited to announce the creation of the No Child Left Inside Grant Program. Funded by the 2019 Minnesota Legislature, these grants are provided for “outdoor environmental, ecological, and other natural-resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth” (2019 Special Session 1, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 3, Subd. 6). The new grant program will have multiple phases. Phase 1 Mini Grants will consist of a mini grant program with a short timeline, simple application, quick review, and \$182,000 available.



Phase 1 Mini Grants will have a minimum request of \$500 and a maximum request of \$5,000. Future No Child Left Inside Grant Program phases will include larger grant awards (up to \$49,999) with a more extensive application process and longer project timeframes.

TIMELINE

- September 30, 2019** No Child Left Inside 2019 Phase 1 Mini Grant Program announced to the public. Grant application materials available.
- October 23, 2019** **9:00 a.m.** - Phase 1 Mini Grant application period starts. Eligible projects are reviewed and awarded as they are received on a geographically-balanced statewide, first-come, first-served basis. Application period closes once all the money is awarded. All applicants will receive notification if successful or not.
- Fall 2019** Awardees complete necessary forms, sign and return grant agreements. Project work cannot begin until awardee receives executed agreement from DNR. *Applicants should not plan to start any reimbursable project work prior to December 1, 2019.*
- June 1, 2020** All reimbursable grant project work must be completed.
- June 30, 2020** Deadline to submit all expense reimbursements and final project report. Phase 1 Mini Grant cycle ends.

INSTRUCTIONS Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on October 23, 2019, submit a completed two-page Phase 1 Mini Grant application. Please do not submit any additional information beyond what is requested in the application. DNR staff will follow up with you once your application is reviewed. If you are awarded a grant, you will be notified regarding next steps in the process.

APPLICANT CONTACT NAME The person listed on the application should be the primary contact for the grant, authorized by the organization to sign the grant agreement, and responsible for submitting grant reimbursement requests and the final report.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Public entities (cities, counties, special purpose districts)
- Native American Tribes
- Non-profit organizations
- Formal school programs
- Informal after school programs
- Community-based and city youth programs

Private businesses, state and federal agencies are not eligible for this grant program.



Eligible projects: Outdoor environmental, ecological, and other natural-resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth (under age 18). A full list of program types and activities are listed in the application. Please check all that apply.

Grant dollars cannot be used for activities such as, but not limited to:

- Purchase of hunting or fishing licenses, tags or stamps
- Group banquets, raffle prizes or other fundraising activities
- Hunting and fishing competitions with cash awards or prizes larger than nominal value
- For-profit projects
- Administrative costs, such as overhead or indirect costs
- Purchase of firearms and ammunition

Match: No match is required for the Phase 1 Mini Grant Program, but organizations are encouraged to include a match of dollars or in-kind labor, materials, and services. The amount of match provided by applicants will be considered in the evaluation of proposals.

Grant reviewers will consider the following project criteria when determining awards:

- Meet at least one category of eligible programs or activities in the application
- Distribution of awards on a geographically balanced, statewide basis
- Provide students direct experiences and understanding of nature
- Use research-based, effective environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural-resource-based educational curriculum
- Maximize number of participants, especially from diverse and underrepresented populations
- Serve children with limited opportunities to outdoor activities
- Use public parks and other natural resource venues and personnel as resources
- Commit matching funds or in-kind

Applications for Phase 1 can be submitted starting at 9:00 a.m. on October 23, 2019 and will be funded on a geographically-balanced statewide, first-come, first-served basis. The Phase 1 Mini Grant funding round will close once all the money has been awarded.

Submit questions and applications to:

outreachgrants.dnr@state.mn.us with the subject line, "2019 No Child Left Inside Mini Grants"

MN DNR extends its thanks to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for the use of "No Child Left Inside."