

Bright Beginnings - 0 to Age 6 Readiness Network

Application Deadline: 9/4/2026 3:00 PM

Bright Beginnings is a comprehensive, evidence-informed early childhood initiative designed to support children from prenatal through age six across Escambia County. The initiative establishes a strong developmental foundation by integrating health, early learning, family engagement, and coordinated support systems to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

For any questions regarding the Bright Pathways Grant procurement process, please contact Escambia Children's Trust (ECT) directly.

Email: info@escambiachildrenstrust.org

Phone: 850-475-4980

Agency Information

Agency (Client)	
Grant	
Organization *	
Organization Name *	
Organization Address *	Click 'Add More' to begin entering the required information.
Organization Telephone *	
Organization Website *	
CEO/ Executive Director *	
Contact Person *	
Title of Contact Person *	
Contact Person Telephone *	
Contact Person e-mail *	
Total Organizational Budget *	
Yearly Amount Requested *	
Total 3 Year Amount Requested *	
Created By	
Modified By	

Bright Pathways Grant Application Overview

Info Session *

I confirm that our organization attended the Bright Beginnings information session.

Fin Session *

I confirm that our organization attended the Bright Beginnings Financial Training.

Intro *

A. Purpose of Funding

Escambia Children's Trust (ECT) invites high-performing, fiscally responsible local providers of high-quality prenatal and early childhood programs to apply for funding to operate Bright Beginnings programs over a three-year project period. Awards made through this Request for Applications (RFP) will enhance or expand direct services for children and youth in Escambia County.

The project period will be **up to 36 months**, beginning **on or after December 1, 2026**, and ending **no later than November 30, 2029**.

B. Target Population and Community Need

Bright Beginnings serves **prenatal families, infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children (0-6)**, prioritizing:

- Families in underserved and high-need communities
- Children at risk of developmental delays
- Children with disabilities
- Multilingual families
- English as a second language
- First-time and teen parents
- Families with multiple children with additional needs
- Households with limited access to early learning resources
- Single parent households
- Foster care families
- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Incarcerated parent
- Military families

Community data consistently demonstrates that children who enter kindergarten without foundational literacy, social-emotional skills, or early learning exposure are significantly more likely to experience ongoing academic challenges. Bright Beginnings addresses these gaps through **early intervention, prevention, and family-centered supports**, ensuring equitable access to high-quality early childhood experiences.

C. Budget Guidelines and Allowable Expenditures

Funding awarded through this RFP must adhere to the following:

- The maximum allowable program funding request is \$500,000 annually
- The maximum allowable request is \$5,000 per program participant
- The ECT Budget Narrative form must be utilized
- All applications must adhere to ECT fiscal policies and guidelines found in ECT's Fiscal Policies and Guidelines
- Additional information will be provided at the mandatory grant financial planning course

D. Core Program Design and Curriculum Framework

Bright Beginnings aligns with the Bright Beginnings framework by adapting key categories to early childhood development:

- **Academic Enrichment:** Early literacy, language development, and pre-math skills
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Attachment, self-regulation, and social development
- **Health, Wellness & Physical Development:** Prenatal care, nutrition, physical activity and screenings
- **Arts & Creative Expression:** Music, storytelling, and play-based learning
- **Family & Community Engagement:** Parent education, home learning routines, local support systems, ongoing medical/developmental services
- **Program Quality & Safety:** Developmental monitoring and early intervention systems
- **Trauma Informed Practices**

The program utilizes a **stage-based milestone model**, ensuring that services are developmentally appropriate and aligned with measurable outcomes at each age level.

Com Plan *

I have reviewed the ECT communication plan and confirm my commitment to remain in compliance. Please note that non-compliance may result in delays in processing reimbursement requests.

Data Coll *

I acknowledge that individual participant data must be collected and entered into ECT's data management system for the Bright Beginnings core educational program. Please note that failure to enter this data will result in delays in processing any reimbursement requests.

Abstract

Application Title *

Title of the proposed program.

Abstract *

Include a brief abstract of the proposed program. The abstract should provide an overview of what you intend to accomplish in the proposed program, including the intended impact of the proposed activities.

Organizational Capacity

Mission Statement *

Organization’s current mission and goals. Explain how your mission and goals align with ECT’s goals and objectives outlines in this RFP.

Organization Description *

Describe the current programs your organization offers. Include the number of current participants for each program.

Capacity and Resources *

Provide an explanation of your organization's capacity to manage and administer the proposed program.

Capacity refers to an organization's overall readiness, infrastructure, and resources needed to operate a program effectively.

Key elements of organizational capacity include:

- Organizational structure and systems that support efficient operations*
- Qualified staff and strong leadership to guide program implementation*
- Oversight and supervision to ensure quality and accountability*
- Financial stability, including the ability to manage budgets and meet fiscal reporting requirements*

Simple definition:

Capacity is what your organization already has in place to successfully support, operate, and sustain the proposed program.

YRS in Escambia *

Number of years your organization has been operating in Escambia County.

Organization History *

How has your organization established trust in the community you wish to serve?

Culturally Rooted *

Leadership is essential for a successful program as well as establishing community trust. How has your organization been a leader in the geographic area you wish to serve?

Prior ECT Contracts

Contracted with ECT past 24 months

Is your agency currently receiving or previously recieved funding from ECT?

Yes
No

Organizational Capacity

ECT Combined Contract Details

ECT Contract Details

Contract Termination or Corrective Action

Contract Termination

Has your agency had a contract terminated for default in the past five (5) years?

Yes
No

Organizational Capacity

Contract Termination a

Describe Each Incident

Program Design

Program Description *

Briefly describe the program you intend to implement.

Geographic Area *

Indicate the location where your services will be provided and describe how you will overcome any transportation barriers.

(If no transportation barriers are present, please indicate this in your response.)

Services and Activities *

Describe how you will recruit and retain participants for this program. Include any successes your organization has had in the past with previous programs.

Community Support *

How did you assess the community's need for the proposed program, and how will it create a meaningful impact for both the community and the intended population? Additionally, how do you plan to leverage the community's strengths and resources to ensure long-term sustainability?

Core Category *

Select your program's Area(s) of Focus as identified in the Services Delivery Models section of the Bright Beginnings RFP Full Solicitation.

Enrichment *

Select your program's Targeted Population(s)/Community Need(s) as identified in the Scope of Services/Scope of Work section of the Bright Beginnings RFP Full Solicitation.

At-Risk Nature ***Describe your program's target population.****Set Curriculum *****What strategies have you used in the past, and how will they be adapted to support and implement your selected Bright Beginnings Service Model(s) within the proposed program?****Data Management Practices *****Accurate data collection is essential for measuring program effectiveness. Please describe your program's approach to collecting and managing outcome/key performance indicator (KPI) data.****Program Values *****If the program does not achieve the desired impact or begins to lose community engagement, how will your organization incorporate feedback and make necessary adjustments to ensure its success?****Executable Services****If your organization does not operate from a dedicated service site, please describe how and where services will be delivered. Include the geographic areas of focus within Escambia County, any partnerships or agreements that support access to facilities or service locations, and how these arrangements will ensure consistent service delivery to participants.**

Note: This question applies only to organizations that are not providing site location information in the next section of the application.

Program Site(s) Information

Site Name *

Site Name

Site Type *

Site Type

School
Community-Based Facility
Faith Based Location
Library
Arts / Cultural Space
Sport / Recreational Space
STEM / Academic Enrichment Center
Residential / Informal Setting
Organization Program Facility
Other

Site HOO *

Hours of Operation

Num of Participants *

What is the maximum number of participants this site can safely accommodate?

Site Address *

Site Address

Site Contact *

Site Contact

Site Email *

Site Contact Email

Site Phone *

Site Contact Phone

Site Website *

Site Website

Site Amenities *

What amenities and/or resources are available at this site for programming activities?

Site Safety *

What measures and precautions are in place at the site to ensure the safety of all program participants?

Site History *

Has your organization previously operated programs at this location?

Site Support *

What additional services or programs are currently offered at this location?

Site Agreement *

Upload one of the following documents for this site: a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Lease Agreement, or Proof of Ownership.

Service/Program Partners

Partner Name *

Name of Partner Agency

Partner Phone Number *

Partner Phone Number

Partner Email Address *

Partner Email

Subcontract Amount *

Subcontract Amount (Total Partner Budget)

Services Offered *

Description of service(s) offered

Role *

Role within the partnership

Scope of Work *

Description of expertise in proposed role

Sub Contracted with ECT *

Has this subcontractor previously contracted with Escambia Children's Trust?

Yes
No

Sub ECT Contract Details

Prior ECT Contract Details

Sub SUNBIZ	Business registration certificate verifying the agency is registered with the state
Sub IRS	Annual tax filing for nonprofits. If an IRS 990 is not applicable, upload last year's tax return.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) *	Upload a letter of support/commitment.

Sustainability Plan

Sustainability Plan *

As part of the Bright Beginnings funding guidelines, awarded organizations are expected to have a financial sustainability plan to continue services beyond ECT funding. Share your organization’s strategy to fulfill this requirement.

Local Support *

What local contributions or fundraising has supported your organization to achieve success?

Application Budget Upload

Application Budget *

Upload your program’s comprehensive application budget using the **ECT Application Budget Template** available on the **Bright Beginnings Landing Page**.

Document Upload

Taxpayer Identification Number	Usually the employer identification number (EIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Articles of Incorporation	Confirms the nonprofit's legal formation
SUNBIZ	Business registration certificate verifying the organization is registered with the state
IRS 501	Determination letter confirming federal tax-exempt status
Bylaws	Outlines governance structure and operational rules
Board of Directors	Includes names, roles, and contract information
Board Minutes	Copy of the minutes from the most recent board meeting
Financial Statement	Recent financial statements demonstrating fiscal health and transparency
IRS 990	Annual tax filing for nonprofits
Organizational Budget	Annual organization budget
Audit Reports	Shows financial planning and oversight
Organizational Structure Chart	Shows hierarchy and key personnel

Community Endorsements

Provide up to 3 letters of endorsement from community organizations or leaders supporting your proposed program