



# Learning Improvement Grant APPLICATION

*yes*

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(\*For ease of processing, please keep all grant materials one-sided and use paper clips, not staples. \*)

**Type of Grant Requested (select one):**

- Innovative Teaching & Learning (\$1,500 max)
- Closing the Achievement Gap (\$1,000 max)
- Creativity and Arts Grant (\$1,000 max)
- Building Character in the Classroom (\$500 max)
- Meet-a-Need Grant (\$500 max)

**Amount Requested** \$1500 **School Year:** 2016-17 **School:** Family Partnership Center

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Applicant(s) name(s) and position(s): CCC-SLP

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Grant Request Submission: January 30, 2017

**Project Proposal (Attach additional pages as needed)**

1. Describe your plan for use of these funds including, if applicable, a project timeline:

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) through the North Thurston Public Schools serves approximately 100 students and families. This program provides support to children and their families from birth-to-three who demonstrate developmental delays in cognitive, communication, motor, adaptive, and social/emotional domains. Families receive home visits and attend a parent toddler group. The early intervention team for North Thurston Public Schools includes special education teachers, a speech-language pathologist, and contracted motor services. The EIP providers have recognized that there is a need for more intensive social emotional support for children birth-to-three. The Department of Early Learning has also recognized this gap in service and has chosen Infant and Toddler Mental Health as its annual focus for the state of Washington. The EIP staff has recently collaborated with Alissa McClellan, MSW to facilitate a relationship based social emotional program for families who qualify for Early Intervention, which is called Circle of Security Parenting. This pilot program serves approximately 25 families.

The Circle of Security Parenting is an evidence-informed intervention based upon extensive research on attachment theory and strengthening the parent-child relationship. Alissa facilitates the 8-week Circle of Security Parenting program curriculum in small group meetings or in individual home visits. While the parents are in the class, early intervention staff teach the children within a group setting.

The Circle of Security Parenting program is unlike any other parenting class. Instead of looking at age-specific behaviors and tools, it strengthens the very foundation of the parent-child relationship. From this strong base, behavior, cooperation, and emotional resiliency fall into place and parents find themselves confident about meeting their child's needs now and in the future.

Families who participate in this program have expressed a need for individualized, on-going support as they work to apply the principles of the program to daily interactions with their children. This aligns with early intervention's focus on intervention in the natural environment. This grant would allow Alissa McClellan, MSW to expand and enhance the existing program by offering additional coaching sessions after the completion of the 8 week curriculum. These funds will also create an opportunity for Alissa to join transdisciplinary team meetings to collaborate with early intervention providers.

2. A. Describe how the students in your classroom and/or school will benefit from this project:

Enriching the early intervention program with a social emotional intervention will create positive outcomes for caregivers and their children. Decades of university-based research have confirmed that secure children exhibit increased empathy, greater self-esteem, better relationships with parents and peers, enhanced school readiness, and an increased capacity to handle emotions more effectively when compared with children who are not secure.

There is a demonstrated need for social-emotional support in early learning. Parents of up to 25% of children receiving services reported that their children were over anxious, hyperactive, exhibited signs of depression and/or problems with social interactions. In fact, more than 30% of parents receiving Early Intervention services report problems managing their children's behaviors.

Research has demonstrated that social and emotional imbalances block a child's ability to learn and adjust in school. Current research suggests that children who enter kindergarten delayed in social-emotional skills were:

- up to 80 percent more likely to have been retained
- up to 80 percent more likely to require special education services
- up to *seven times* more likely to be suspended or expelled at least once

The proposed plan aligns with the North Thurston Public Schools Curriculum Guidelines, which declare that "supporting the 'whole child' is a core value of ours too". The hope with this program is that the secure attachment of the children will prepare them for lifelong academic success, strong relationships with others, and positive self-esteem. Supporting social emotional development in the early years will reduce the need for further intervention in the future.

B. Number of students who will benefit from this project:

Alissa McClellan, MSW will offer 25 individual sessions, lasting 60-90 minutes, to graduates of the Circle of Security Parenting program. Alissa will also join transdisciplinary team meetings to collaborate with early intervention providers.

3. Please be specific about the cost of your project.

A. What is the total cost of the project? (Please provide documentation and a breakdown of expenses)

For the proposed plan of 25 home visits and 5 hours of collaboration with Early Intervention providers, the Early Intervention Program will use the grant money to pay Alissa McClellan, MSW \$1500.00.

B. Amount secured from other sources (list sources)?

The current Circle of Security Parenting Program that the district is piloting is funded through Part C monies through OSPI.

4. If the project is ongoing, how will you obtain additional funds in the future?

We will apply for other grants in the future and will continue to advocate for district support for Circle of Security Parenting classes.

5. The North Thurston Education Foundation requires all successful grantees to submit a short post-grant report on their project; a form is available at [www.ntef.org](http://www.ntef.org). Will you be able to submit this report within 3 months of the completion of the grant cycle? Yes  No

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_

6. (To be completed by the building principal) I have reviewed this grant application. The project will support our School Improvement Plan for the current school year.

Principal's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/30/17

*Notice of approval/disapproval will be sent within 30 days of application review*

**SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO**  
**Michael Jones, Executive Director, [ntef@hotmail.com](mailto:ntef@hotmail.com).**  
**Questions? Call 360-790-6548.**