

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Denali Family Services****Federal Tax ID: 92-0155751****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Denali Family Services - Little Steps Preschool Facility Completion

State Funding Requested: \$400,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funds would complete the Little Steps Preschool, including two additional classrooms, an indoor gymnasium/gross motor room, and playground completion.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$800,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$400,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Funds would complete the Little Steps Preschool, including two additional classrooms, an indoor gymnasium/gross motor room, and playground completion as mentioned above. This will allow Little Steps Preschool, which is a component of Denali Family Services to expand their services and allow more children into their center. Currently Little Steps is the only inclusive behavioral preschool in the state of Alaska working with 'typically developing' children and those meeting severely emotionally disturbed (SED) clinical criteria in the same classroom setting. Little Steps would be able to, with these funds, serve an additional 25 families and provide an even higher quality of care with the completion of the gymnasium, classrooms, and outdoor space. Little Steps was granted the honor of becoming a national demonstration site for the social-emotional curriculum used there and is continuing to be a model center for social emotional competence and teaching strategies turned to by other centers needing guidance.

Project Timeline:

6/1/12-6/30/12: Planning, design, permits, review.

7/1/12-8/31/12: Complete various aspects of Phase 2 of construction to include two additional classrooms, an indoor gymnasium/gross motor room, and finishing the playground area.

Receive final inspections for final certificate of occupancy

9/4/12: Open finished phase 2 area(s) to use by facility

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Denali Family Services

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Kyle Gardner
Title: Little Steps Director
Address: 545 East 5th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone Number: (907)222-2379
Email: kgardner@denalifs.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



February 22, 2012

Kyle Gardner, Director
Little Steps Pre-School
Denali Family Services
7521 Brayton Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please consider this a letter of support for the proposal your agency is submitting to the State of Alaska for Capital funds to complete the playground and 1/3 of the interior of the building remaining under phase two of your construction at Little Steps. As the primary inclusive child care center in Anchorage, serving both typically developing children and children who experience emotional and behavioral difficulties, Little Steps provides a much needed service in the Anchorage community.

The finished playground, and finishing phase two of construction by adding two more classrooms and a gross-motor room will make a dramatic difference in the ways that Little Steps can assist children with special needs.

Anchorage AEYC is an Alaskan affiliate formed under the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Anchorage AEYC is a membership organization that collaborates with community members, organizations and agencies to meet the needs of young children and their families. Anchorage AEYC is fully supportive of your plans and applauds your efforts in early child development.

Sincerely,

Anna Castillo, President
Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children

February 27, 2012

Kyle Gardner, Director
Little Steps Pre-School
Denali Family Services
7521 Brayton Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Mr. Gardner:

On behalf of **thread**, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network, I am writing you in support of your request for State of Alaska Capital funds to complete your Little Steps early childhood program playground and finalize construction of your building.

thread promotes accessible, affordable and quality early care and early learning for Alaska's children. We work to strengthen the early care and education industry by empowering parents, educating child care professionals, and collaborating with communities. Annually, we work with over 7,500 parents to assist them in their search for early care and education programs; we provide training to over 3,000 early care and education professionals to help prepare them for their work with children; and we work with community partners such as Little Steps to meet the needs of working families and their children. We have a strong and valuable partnership with Denali Family Services and Little Steps and find that they provide high quality services to some of the most vulnerable children and families in Anchorage.

However, finding quality and affordable child care in Alaska is often challenging. Currently in Anchorage, there are approximately 10,500 regulated early care and education spaces, yet that only meets half of the demand of working families. By supporting this capital request to provide quality child care in Anchorage, you will be supporting more families with access to regulated quality child care. Supporting Little Steps is important as it is the only inclusive child care center in Anchorage, serving both typically developing children and children who experience emotional and behavioral difficulties. Little Steps provides a much needed service in the Anchorage community and this construction, adding two more classrooms and a gross-motor room will make a dramatic difference in the ways that Little Steps can assist children with special needs.

thread supports Denali Family Services and Little Steps in their work supporting families and young children with their early care and learning needs.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Berglund, CEO
thread, Connecting Early Care and Education to Alaska
(907) 265-3101
sberglund@threadalaska.org