



• 1235 Oak Street • Winnetka, IL 60093 • (847) 780-7442 • [www.theallianceforec.org](http://www.theallianceforec.org) •

September 8, 2022

Mr. Brian Leverenz  
Community Services Administrator New Trier Township  
739 Elm Street  
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Dear Mr. Leverenz and Fellow Committee Members,

The Alliance for Early Childhood is pleased to present our 2022-2023 enclosed grant proposal for your review. We recognize and are grateful to New Trier Township's support of local, nonprofit agencies.

As we live through an evolving pandemic, The Alliance is committed to serving parents, families, and educators in New Trier Township as we continue to adapt our programming based on the needs of our community. Reaching a record number of parents and educators during 2021-2022, we are eager to kick-off our programming this upcoming school year to our engaged community.

We believe that as a community, we can "put the child back in childhood" and build a strong developmental foundation for our children's lifelong learning, accomplishment, and joy.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of The Alliance for Early Childhood. Please contact me if you require further information or have any questions regarding our proposal.

In partnership,

*Carly Andrews*

Carly Andrews, Executive Director  
The Alliance for Early Childhood  
[carly@theallianceforec.org](mailto:carly@theallianceforec.org)



# AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

## Fiscal Year 2022-2023

<b>Cover Page</b>			
NAME OF AGENCY			
The Alliance for Early Childhood			
CONTACT PERSON			
Carly Andrews, Executive Director			
ADDRESS			
1235 Oak Street			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
Winnetka	IL	60093	
PHONE	FAX		
847-780-7442	n/a		
E-MAIL			
carly@theallianceforec.org			
WEB			
www.theallianceforec.org			
NO. OF YEARS IN EXISTENCE	TOTAL AGENCY FUNDING REQUEST FOR PROPOSED YEAR		
33	\$ 7,500		
PROGRAMS REQUESTING FUNDING	AMOUNT RECEIVED LAST YEAR	\$ AMOUNT FOR PROPOSED YEAR	FUNDED BY TOWNSHIP SINCE? (Estimate of Year OK)
1. Parent, Family and Educator Programs	\$7,500	\$ 7,800	2017
2. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
3. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____
4. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	_____



## AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

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### Eligibility Criteria For Funding

New Trier Township General Statement of Policy:

- **Each agency/program requesting funding from the Township will be referred to either the Agency Oversight Committee, the Mental Health Committee, or the Money Follows the Person Committee of the Township. Those committees will make funding and agency/program recommendations to the New Trier Township Board of Trustees. You will be notified of their final decisions sometime in the spring.**
- Agencies considered for funding should have been in existence for one year after receiving their not-for profit status from the State of Illinois and have been providing services to the community during that time.
- No agency with the ability to tax or conduct referendums will receive Township funding.

In order to be eligible for funding an agency must meet the following minimum requirements:

- **Area Served** - While an agency may serve areas other than New Trier Township, its programs must serve residents of New Trier Township.
- **Proportion of Township Residents Served**- For agencies serving more than New Trier Township, the amount of funding requested shall take into consideration the proportion of the agency's service rendered to residents of New Trier Township.
- **Non-Profit** - Funded agencies must be 501 (c) (3) not-for-profits.
- **Needs**- The need for the service must be demonstrated.
- **Standards** - An agency requesting funding must have at least one full-time paid staff person, or its equivalent; the credentials of the applicant's staff shall meet professional standards, commensurate with the responsibilities involved.
- **Employment Practices** - The agency must be an equal opportunity employer.
- **Articles of Incorporation** - Submit a copy, as amended, if changed in the last 12 months.
- **Bylaws** - Submit a copy, as amended, if changed in the last 12 months.
- **Use of Funds** - Funds must be used as specified in the grant application and as



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approved by the Township. Changes must be cleared with the Township.

- **Accessibility** - *All services must be available to clients with disabilities and the agency must be able to deliver services from a site that is ADA accessible. If not, please explain.*
- **Accountability** - The agency shall maintain communication with the assigned advisory committee liaison, who must be allowed to attend board meetings upon request. The agency may dismiss the person from a board meeting if they convene into Executive Session. The agency shall provide meeting minutes to the liaison upon request
- **Financial** - *All agencies with budgets of greater than \$300,000 must have an annual audit performed by an independent CPA. Those agencies with a budget of \$300,000 or less must submit to the Township a copy of form AG990 that is sent to the Attorney General's Office. The Township reserves the right to request an audit be performed for agencies with budgets of \$300,000 or less.*
- **Absence of Conflicts of Interest** – The agency certifies, to the best of its knowledge, information, and belief, that it has no current relationship or involvement with any New Trier Township Trustee, Employee, or Committee Member which the Agency reasonably believes could either favorably or unfavorably influence the Township's possible grant of the Agency's funding request.

**YES**  \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_ - **If no, please explain.**

***The Mission of New Trier Township is to provide leadership, advocacy and resources to benefit the physical, mental, and social well-being of Township residents.***

Guiding Principles of New Trier Township

The following principles guide the Board and Staff's action as we work together to fulfill our mission:

- The Township's primary role is to identify and address the needs of our community.
- Our efforts are to create new energetic ideas and programs while maintaining existing programs which are relevant and effective.
- Our intent is to primarily support, given due diligence and fiscal accountability, programs providing services to our neighbors; including youth programs; senior citizen supports; aid to persons with disabilities, food, shelter and financial and emotional emergency relief for people in need.



## **AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

- . We seek opportunities to meet community needs by providing assistance directly to individuals as well as indirectly, through third-party sources/providers.
- . The Township will pursue coalition-building with other community entities and advocate on behalf of Township residents.
- . We believe that people have the freedom to choose where they receive services and assistance, including those the Township provides and supports.

### **Financial Support Issues**

1. The Township prefers to support organizations that have a demonstrated need for financial support and funding. While we do not intend to penalize those organizations that are highly successful fundraisers, we do have to recognize need as a legitimate funding criteria. Therefore organizations that have a reserve level in excess of one year's budget will be a reduced priority for funding (excluding a true endowment). This will be ascertained by a review of the agency audit. Reserve levels are usually calculated by subtracting current liabilities from current assets and comparing it to the total agency budget. However, the Township may examine other financial criteria, including long-term debt, endowment, and other funds.
2. The Township does not fund capital or infrastructure projects such as land or building acquisition and development, or the creation or support of capital or reserve or endowment funds.
3. The Township does not support programs that are primarily arts/education, recreation or environmental related services, though they may be a component of a broader service designed to meet more basic human and social service needs consistent with our priorities listed above.
4. A Township funded program must serve all of New Trier Township, or be part of a group of similar agencies designed to serve the entire Township.
5. The Township prefers to support community-based agencies; meaning those that are located in our community or nearby and exist primarily to serve people in those communities. National and international organizations, even those located in New Trier Township, are not necessarily disqualified, but must demonstrate a substantial impact on our communities.
6. Agencies requesting funding from New Trier Township should serve a significant number of Township residents, or generate substantial costs in serving our residents.
7. Township funding is program specific, but there are no restrictions in how those funds are used within the program. They are meant to support and provide access to services for New Trier Township clients



## AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

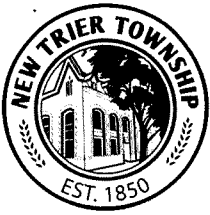
### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

#### Other Certification Issues

Please mark yes, no, or other as appropriate next to each statement. If no, or other, please explain. Supporting documents may be requested at a future date and must be supplied upon request.

YES NO OTHER (PLEASE EXPLAIN)

- Agency maintains a personnel policy manual
- Agency has a non-discrimination policy
- Agency has a sexual harassment policy
- Agency has a grievance procedure
- Agency has a Strategic Plan  
Covers years 2019-2024
- Agency produces an Annual Report  
Most recent report covers period 6/2021-5/2022
- Agency has an effective fiscal management system in place
- Audit or AG990 completed and copy provided for most recent fiscal year
- Agency maintains liability insurance coverage  
Amount of coverage 3,000,000  
Name of insurer Alliance for Nonprofits Insurance  
Effective dates of coverage 12/10/21-12
- Agency pays all state and federal payroll taxes



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YES NO OTHER (PLEASE EXPLAIN)

- Agency has by-laws in place  
Date last amended/accepted September 9, 2020
- Agency is accredited by recognized accreditation organization (where appropriate)  
Date of most recent accreditation \_\_\_\_\_  
Accreditation Organization \_\_\_\_\_
- Agency's board serves without compensation  
Number of board members 12  
Number of Board vacancies 0  
List board sub-committees Communications, Let's Play! Inclusion Roundtable, Networking Membership, Directors' Roundtable and New Directors' Reflective Practice Group  
Schedule of board meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, September – June, 9:30 am
- Agency has Auxiliary or other Advisory/Governing Board. If so, please explain:  
Individuals who provide advice and expertise to the Alliance serve on the Advisory Board
- Agency provides staff with opportunities for training and personal development
- Agency has filed its annual report with the Illinois Attorney General  
# 36-3664826
- Agency has filed its annual report with the Illinois Secretary of State  
# N 5560-398-7  
Federal Tax ID # 36-3664826

*We certify that we meet all the eligibility criteria for funding and that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and agree to comply with all requirements of the program and funder if we are awarded and accept funding. Furthermore, our Board has been advised of the Eligibility Criteria and approved our signing of this document.*



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Agency Director Name Carly Andrews	
Signature <i>Carly Andrews</i>	Date: August 15, 2022
Board President Name Lara Scarborough	
Signature <i>Lara Scarborough</i>	Date: 9.7.22
<h3>Organizational Profile</h3> <p>(A) The Organizational Profile is part of the New Trier Township Application For Funding; and (B) It is the Agency's responsibility to keep the Organizational Profile information current each year and provide New Trier Township with further information on an ongoing basis if there are any significant changes, such as to the mission, organization, board requirements, and/or other changes.</p> <p>(1) Briefly summarize the agency's mission, history, services, and organizational structure. Have these changed significantly over the lifespan of the organization? (Please attach a current organizational chart, if available.)</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> The Alliance for Early Childhood is a collaborative, community organization that supports and guides families and educators to nurture the healthy, well-rounded development of children from birth to eight years old.</p> <p><b>Vision:</b> As a community, we can "put the child back in childhood" and build a strong developmental foundation for our children's lifelong learning, accomplishments, and joy.</p> <p><b>History:</b> For 33 years, The Alliance's mission has been to promote the healthy growth and development of children from birth to age eight by providing resources, programs and support for parents, families, and educators. After developing and implementing a strategic plan in 2019, our organization refocused efforts to revitalize programs that target adults supporting children from birth to eight years old. Children benefit from our programs, but our focus is on building the capacity of the adults that serve our youngest community members through our parent, educator, and family programs.</p> <p>Services provided by The Alliance for Early Childhood:</p> <p><b>Supporting the Foundations of Childhood with Parent and Family Programming:</b> Parents are a child's first teacher. The period of early childhood is marked by tremendous growth and flexibility in brain growth, and is a critical time for parents to establish the foundations of social-emotional health, learning and physical health and wellness. We offer free, accessible educational</p>	





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### Fiscal Year 2022-2023

programs and resources, providing parents and caregivers information and support to be successful in their role as parents and first teachers.

#### **Supporting Educator Growth Through Professional Development and Networking:**

Through year-long professional development and networking opportunities, we offer the latest research on young children and their development, in order to foster greater alignment and common understanding of developmentally appropriate practice in our community. We support a community dialogue about how adults can work together to appropriately support early childhood education and defend early childhood practices.

*The Attachment, "The Alliance for Early Childhood Organizational Structure" provides additional insight on our organizational structure.*

(2) Briefly summarize the role of the board and the requirements for serving on it. What role does the board play in the administration and operation of your organization and what is the desired size of a full and active board?

The Alliance for Early Childhood Executive Board has responsibility for setting the strategy of the organization, hiring and evaluating the Executive Director, building community awareness of the Alliance's programs and resources, and acting as fiduciaries, ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of the organization. The desired size of the board is 12 members. The Alliance's Executive Board has the following officers that are elected annually: President, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary.

In 2020-2021 The Alliance instituted a Liaison Council, which is comprised of two categories of members:

- School Representatives serve as the communication liaison between The Alliance and their school or organization.
- At-Large Members serve as a chair or participate in a committee.

## **Agency/Program Funding Request Information**

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

(1) Describe the services provided by this program, eligibility requirements, and the target population.

The Alliance for Early Childhood is seeking funding from New Trier Township to support Parent, Family and Educator programs.



## **AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

#### **Parent Programs:**

##### **2022-2023 VIRTUAL PARENT SERIES: *The Heart of Parenting: What Children Need Most from Parents***

Parents of young children haven't had the same type of access to their extended families and school and community resources during the pandemic, and are left more disconnected than ever from the networks that support them during the early years of their child's development. As Dr. Dana Suskind, MD, writes in *Parent Nation* (2022): "Parents were left on their own. Anxious and exhausted, they were called on to manage every aspect of their children's lives – to be teachers, coaches, therapists, and camp counselors – all day every day for the better part of a year in many places, longer in others." The Alliance recognizes the impact of the pandemic on parenting as well as the research on this critical developmental time period in the life of a child and seeks to provide parents the support they need to raise healthy, well-rounded children. As we examine foundations of parenting, research on attachment and resiliency consistently demonstrates the vital link between children's emotional and social health with strong, caring relationships with adults. Parents and caregivers play a vital role in cultivating the roots of resilience that have lasting effects on a child's healthy, well-rounded development. The Alliance's Virtual Parent Series will build parents' capacity as they build strong, caring relationships with their children.

#### **Educator Programs:**

##### **2022-2023 VIRTUAL EDUCATORS REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SERIES: *Reflect. Renew. Reconnect***

As educators adapt to working with children who have been impacted by the pandemic, Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC) is a necessary preventative strategy to ameliorate the disruption to social emotional development. In order to address and support the needs of adults in our community who care for our youngest and most vulnerable, I/ECMHC services need to be delivered well beyond a one-time training or wellness day. The following are the ongoing programs that we offer to educators to support mental health:

- **Educators' Reflective Practice Group:** Educators' Reflective Practice Groups provide educators an opportunity to meet together in a strengths-based group for the school year. Facilitated by Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and Parent Coach, Molly Pope, educators will take the time to reflect on their practice and renew their commitment to healthy, well-rounded child development.
- **Directors' Reflective Practice Group:** Directors' Reflective Practice Groups provide directors and school leaders of early childhood programs the opportunity to meet together and sustain the practice of school leadership, ensuring directors are connected, supported in building strong early childhood programs that promote healthy, well-rounded child development.

#### **Family Programs:**

Let's Play! is The Alliance for Early Childhood's ongoing community program for families. Our events invite parents and caregivers to engage and interact with their children in child-directed, creative free play through a variety of programs that are free and open to the public during the school year:

- Bring our community together



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- Connect families to experiential learning through play together, offering models for free play and unplugged time that parents can use at home
- Provide children the opportunity to engage in child-directed free play, allowing them to follow their own ideas and interests
- Provide opportunities for children to negotiate, collaborate, and problem solve through the creative process
- Engage parents in experiences with their children that build understanding of the importance of child-directed play

(2) How does this program fit in with one or more of the priorities identified by New Trier Township in its strategic plan? Please explain.

The Alliance for Early Childhood offers programs for parents and families that are free and accessible to New Trier Township residents, fulfilling the priority that the Township "continue to oversee and fund programs in the traditional manner that do not fit the money follows the person model."

In addition, the 2022-2023 **VIRTUAL EDUCATORS REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SERIES** is aligned with the New Trier Township strategic priority to "continue to encourage new programs and volunteer efforts through seed grants, community development block grants, requests for proposals, conference, etc."

The Alliance for Early Childhood is a community collaboration organization supporting New Trier Township to facilitate collaboration, support and communication between all stakeholders including parents, grandparents, teachers, early childhood professionals and community organizations.

Please check each priority you feel the program addresses. (Most programs will address only one or two priorities.)

See our website at [www.newtriertownship.com](http://www.newtriertownship.com) for more information.

- |                                                                 |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging in Place                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Families       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Services              | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Disabilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Human Services</u> |                                                    |

### NEED

(3) Describe the need and demand for this program in the community and justify that it deserves investment of Township funding. You may include both data and examples of individual clients.



## **AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

The Covid-19 pandemic has been the largest disruption to early childhood education and family life in modern history. We are just now beginning to understand early research outlining the effects on children and their development. As an organization whose mission is dedicated to the healthy, well-rounded development of young children, now more than ever we must continue to provide quality, accessible programs for parents, families and educators in our community. The Alliance is committed to accessible and attuned parent education in order to support a child's health development. The Alliance will continue to offer high quality parent programming with a relational developmental framework from experts in the field of early childhood.

As work-life norms have radically altered as a result of the pandemic, families used the home for work and play. There are many challenges and opportunities for families in this new model, particularly for children who have parents physically present, but often times connected to devices and unable to be emotionally present with their children. While this is our modern context, the Alliance is committed to supporting parents as they navigate this new world and carve out healthy play with their children at home. Let's Play! is an open invitation to our community to come together and experience child-directed free play. We connect families to experiential learning through play, offering models for free play and unplugged time that parents can use at home. The research on play is clear, play supports the development of a "sturdy brain architecture, the foundations of lifelong health, and the building blocks of resilience." (*Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University*)

- (4) Are you able to meet the full demand for this service or is there a waiting list? What new or unmet needs do you see in the community or for the clients served in this program?

There is a dearth of programming in our community, supporting parents with young children and early childhood educators. Our series is meant to fill this gap and increase awareness and best practice in support of healthy child development.

**Parent Programming:** The Virtual Parent Series, *The Heart of Parenting: What Children Need Most from Caregivers* will consist of three, 60-minute virtual programs that take place via Zoom. All are free and open to the public and will have a 500-person registration cap. The recordings will be sent to registered participants and available for a finite time for viewing.

### **INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

#### **2022-2023 VIRTUAL EDUCATORS REFLECTIVE PRACTICE SERIES: *Reflect. Renew. Reconnect***

- *Educators' Reflective Practice Group:* This cohort will meet monthly by Zoom and is open to Member Schools of The Alliance for Early Childhood. Each cohort will be



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capped at ten participants. If interest exceeds then, up to three cohorts will be formed.

- *Directors' Reflective Practice Group:* This cohort will meet six times over the course of the school year for 75-minute sessions by Zoom. This support is open to new and veteran Member School leaders of the Alliance. There is not a cap on registration.

**Family Programming:** *Let's Play! Ongoing Community Program.* The Alliance will host six opportunities for families this year. A Let's Play! Guide with program offerings will be shared digitally in the early fall to Member Schools, linked on our website, and sent out by community email. These events are free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged but drop-ins are welcome. There are not capacity limits.

### CAPACITY

- (5) Demonstrate that the program has the vision, personnel, and skills to successfully carry out the program and achieve its goals, objectives and performance measures.

The Alliance for Early Child is well positioned to serve the New Trier Township community as it has been doing for the past 33 years. After the successful tenure of the past Executive Director, Stefanie Maiuri, the Alliance board held an extensive search for the new Executive Director. In May 2022 they hired Carly Andrews as the next Executive Director, beginning her leadership in August 2022. The executive director works with the Alliance staff and volunteers to successfully carry out the program and meet the organization's goals.

All of our programs for parents, families, and educators have a defined vision and set of clear objectives (*please see question 1 for more specific programmatic details*).

### SERVICE STATISTICS/DEMOGRAPHICS

- (6) Who is being served by this program? Please provide a statistical breakdown of the number of clients served, the total units of service delivered, and costs per unit of service by filling in the chart below. Please state and define your unit of service for this program. To calculate cost per unit of service, divide the total number of units of service into the total budget for the program. (Suggestions for the appropriate unit of service are included in the proposal in the directions. For some programs you may wish to calculate cost per unit of service in more than one manner.)

Unit of service definition – Staff Hours

SERVICE STATISTICS – Please indicate fiscal year dates for each column

PLEASE INDICATE FISCAL YEAR/DATES IN EACH COLUMN	Prior Year 2020-2021	Present Year 2021-2022	Proposed Year 2022-2023
--------------------------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------



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Number of persons served (unduplicated count)	1,155	1,193	1,312
Number of units of service	150	300	300
Cost per unit of service	\$85.07	\$59.68	\$79.16
<p>(7) What are the demographics of New Trier clients served in the prior year? (breakdown by community).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glencoe – 10%</li> <li>• Glenview – 5%</li> <li>• Kenilworth – 20%</li> <li>• Northfield – 10%</li> <li>• Wilmette – 15%</li> <li>• Winnetka – 40%</li> </ul> <p>(8) Total from New Trier Township (unduplicated). Approximately 1113</p> <p>(9) New Trier Township clients are what % of total? 93%</p> <p>(10) Units of Service to New Trier clients. Staff Hours</p> <p>(11) Units of Service to NTT clients are what % of total 100%</p>			



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(12) New Trier clients age breakdown

Parents of young children and educators of children preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

### OUTCOMES/EVALUATION

(13) What outcomes did you achieve for your clients in the prior year? Results should be client-outcome based, specify a target level of achievement, the measurement tool that was used, the rationale for setting the target at a certain level, and a timeframe for accomplishment. Detail any changes made in the program as a result of these outcome results.

In the 2021-2022 school year, The Alliance reached a significant number of parents, families, and educators through our extensive program offerings that included both in-person and virtual opportunities. All of these program offerings were threaded through our mission and relevant to the needs of our community. Most of our events included a registration process through Eventbrite. At this given time, sharing attendance numbers is the most reliable way to highlight engagement with our organization.

For the September 2021- June 2022 timeframe, we had 162 attendees to parent programs (an additional 378 who registered and had access to the virtual content); we had 397 families attend Let's Play! programs; we had 135 educators attend the Alliance's programs for educators (an additional 121 who registered and had access to the virtual content).

As an organization we will continue to revise our practice based upon New Trier Township's feedback provided in The Alliance's 2021 funding letter. We agree that evaluation and client feedback are a continued area of improvement for our organization and are committed to strengthening both areas. We believe that measuring outcomes is critical to evaluate the efficacy of programs and strive to obtain feedback from all stakeholders. For the 2020-2021 year, following each program, we issued digital surveys and continued to communicate the importance of this feedback to all attendees. Despite our efforts, we still have a difficult time obtaining survey feedback from attendees of family and parent programs.

#### 2021-2022 Evaluation Response Outcomes:

- Let's Play! Attendees: 10% of families completed
- Parent Program Attendees: 20% of families completed
- Educator Program: 58% of educators completed (The return rate on evaluate forms is much higher with attending educators because they are required to complete in order to obtain continuing education credit.)

The Alliance is committed to strengthening our registration and evaluation process for attendees.



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### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

- (14) What results are you committed to achieving in the present year? (If outcomes are the same as above, simply state that we hope to improve upon the past year's results)

We are committed to improving our registration and our evaluation and client feedback processes.

- (15) Are there any other program effectiveness/evaluation measures you think are important, such as customer/client satisfaction surveys, quality of service measures, or other indicators? Please describe.

We currently utilize Google Forms and send this out following our events, both in-person and virtual. For us, it's not the tool, it is the ability to reach and motivate parents and families to fill out the form post-event.

### **CHANGES/CHALLENGES**

- (16) What changes or challenges (legal, socio-economic, demographic, financial, political or other) did the agency, program, and clients face in the prior year? How did you respond? What challenges or changes do you anticipate in the present year? (If changes/challenges were the same for all programs, do not repeat).

Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, our Member School Leaders worked tirelessly to keep their doors open for in-person learning for our youngest children during a critical time of development. They adapted their learning environments to ensure a safe backdrop for learning. However, as the pandemic of COVID-19 evolved, state-wide communication became increasingly more ambiguous and disorganized for leaders of DCFS Licensed Day Care Centers/Preschools. K-12 institutions received clear, up-to-date, and transparent guidelines that are publicly available to all stakeholders. Parents that had children in multiple educational settings were often confused by the different, conflicting, and lack of communication available from the state. Particularly frustrating were the unclear, ambiguous and out-of-date early childhood policies that were not published on a public, state-facing document. This disconnect led to rising tension between families and schools, putting Alliance DCFS-licensed Day Care Centers and Preschool leaders in a very difficult position as they sought to uphold unclear guidelines. This, in turn, negatively impacted the





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home-school connection that is so critically important to providing high quality and impactful early childhood education.

Overall, parents have anecdotally reported feeling overwhelmed with children at home from school more frequently due to quarantine guidelines and illness. Anecdotally educators have reported that their work has become more challenging and complex, leading to burnout and, for some, career changes. In our community, educators are addressing the gaps in social, emotional and academic develop that occurred for children as a result of the pandemic and the remote learning and physical isolation from peers. In order to address these needs the Alliance pivoted to provide our same programs through the medium of Zoom. We continued our Preschool – Kindergarten Summit Conference remotely for the past two years.

#### **2022-2023**

With the endemic nature of the pandemic and reduced school COVID-19 guidelines, we anticipate less of a burden for children, parents and educators. However, we recognize the lasting impact that the pandemic has left on parents, families, and educators. We have hope that a sense of community can and will be revitalized, but we know that parents, families, and educators are still continuing to heal from the last few years. The Alliance will continue to offer responsive programs to our parent and educator community. We anticipate a strong drive to attend in-person, Let's Play! Programs and are excited to continue to offer opportunities for families to come together and engage with their children.



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### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

#### **RECOMMENDATION RESPONSES**

- (17) How did you respond to the recommendations made by New Trier Township, if any? Please describe in detail. (These are contained in the funding letter you received last April).

When the funding letter was received in April 2021, a majority of the programming was completed. The Alliance hosts programs during the school calendar year, September – June. We will continue to improve our registration and our program evaluation process for parent and family attendees, which has been an ongoing challenge.

Strategies we plan to employ:

- 1) We will add a question on educator registration to keep track of all attendees who live or work in New Trier Township.
- 2) We will invest in additional registration signage in order to ensure visibility for all families who are participating in Let's Play programming, so that we might ensure accurate attendance numbers at events which take place out of doors.
- 3) A working group of the staff and board will review our registration and evaluation and client feedback processes in order to increase the quality and level of feedback we receive.

#### **RESOURCES/BUDGET**



## **AGENCY/PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FUNDING**

### **Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

- (18) What non-financial resources are required to deliver this service? Specify staffing/volunteer requirements, budgetary needs and other resources or inputs that are needed for this program. If the Township is unable to fund this program at the desired level, what will the impact be on services? Describe how your program will or will not continue without investment by the Township. Complete the attached budget forms. Were any cost reduction measures implemented in the prior year? If there is a sliding fee scale for this program, please attach it and indicate how many clients paid each fee level.

The Alliance programs are delivered by the Alliance staff, volunteers and Executive Board. We have not implemented cost reduction measures for the 2022-2023 budget; in fact, because we are planning for a full return of in-person events, we have increased expenses in key areas back to pre-pandemic budget levels. We are working with a budget that is in the red for the 2022-2023 year as we navigate the changing revenue picture as a result of the pandemic. While we have cash reserves that can help us through down years, we rely heavily on the New Trier Township grant funding. If the Township is unable to fund our program, we would face difficult decisions about cutting programs.

- (19) If your program or agency budget request represents an increase from last year, please explain the reason for the change and what the increase will be used for.

We are requesting a \$300 increase in funding for The Alliance's grant-funded programs due to cost increases to run these programs over the past year.



## 2022-2023 Organizational Structure

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAFF</b></p> <p><i>Who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Executive Director (Paid, Full-Time)</li> <li>● Administrative Assistant (Paid, Part-Time)</li> <li>● Outsourced Bookkeeper for accounting</li> <li>● Outsourced CPA for taxes</li> </ul> <p><i>What</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The staff works under the leadership of the Executive Director to carry-out the mission, vision, and direction of the Board of Directors</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b></p> <p><i>Who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Officers of the Corporation include President, Past President, Treasurer, and Secretary</li> </ul> <p><i>What</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Responsibility for setting the strategy of the organization, hiring and evaluating the Executive Director, building community awareness of the Alliance's programs and resources, and acting as fiduciaries, ensuring the long-term financial thrivability of the organization</li> <li>● \$100 Board Dues</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIAISON COUNCIL</b></p> <p><i>Who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each member organization may appoint a representative to serve on the Corporation's Liaison Council</li> <li>● At-Large Members serve as active participants on Executive Board committees</li> </ul> <p><i>What</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Serve as ambassadors of the organization, providing support for the mission and programs through volunteer hours, attendance at events, participating in Committees of the Executive Board related to parent and teacher programming, and supporting the facilitation of the annual campaign</li> <li>● \$100 Board Dues</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADVISORY BOARD</b></p> <p><i>Who</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education professionals and professionals in other fields (medicine, law) who advise on an as needed basis.</li> <li>● Representatives of community organizations</li> <li>● Former board members who stay connected to our organization</li> </ul> <p><i>What</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Called upon to advise on an as needed basis</li> <li>● Invited to all Alliance events</li> </ul>

**NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL FUNDING REQUEST FORM**  
**The Alliance for Early Childhood**  
**2022-2023 Total Agency Budget Form**

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
AEC Fiscal Year 10/1-9/30	PRIOR YEAR	PRESENT YEAR	PROPOSED YEAR
<b>AGENCY REVENUES</b>			
New Trier Township	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,800
Federal Government	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0
Local Government/Townships	0	0	0
Client Fees	\$ 2,790	\$ 3,060	\$ 3,300
Grants: Foundations, Corporate, Religious	\$ 11,110	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Individual Contributions	\$ 92,356	\$ 38,720	\$ 41,000
Special Events	\$ 1,000	\$ 39,276	\$ 39,300
United Way	0	0	0
Sales	\$ 10,450	\$ 8,450	\$ 8,450
Other Revenues	\$ 40,379	\$ 28	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 165,585</b>	<b>\$ 106,034</b>	<b>\$ 108,850</b>
<b>AGENCY EXPENDITURES</b>			
Program Staff Salaries, Benefits, Taxes	\$ 91,422	\$ 100,417	\$ 104,913
Administrative Staff Salaries, Benefits, Taxes	0	0	0
Fundraising Staff Salaries, Benefits, Taxes	0	0	0
Professional Fees/Contractual Services	\$ 10,683	\$ 16,381	\$ 41,147
General Operating Expenses	\$ 6,002	\$ 4,609	\$ 6,450
Occupancy and Utilities	0	0	0
Specific Assistance to Individuals	0	0	0
Major and Minor Equipment	0	1,353	1,200
Major Capital Expenses	0	0	0
Other Fundraising Expenses	\$ 3,224	\$ 3,281	\$ 3,700
Other/Miscellaneous	\$ 24	\$ 3,259	\$ 2,800
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 111,354</b>	<b>\$ 129,300</b>	<b>\$ 160,210</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 54,231</b>	<b>\$ (23,266)</b>	<b>\$ (51,360)</b>
NET GAIN/LOSS FROM OTHER FUNDS	0	\$ (45)	0
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 54,231	\$ (23,311)	\$ (51,360)
TOTAL FUNDRAISING/ADMIN COSTS	\$ 3,224	\$ 3,281	\$ 3,700

