



2025-2026
Early Childhood Partner
Opportunity Commitment Form:
 Early Childhood Coalition,
 Child Care Mentoring Project, ELS
 Outreach & Prenatal to Grade 3

Coalition Community: Quad City Coalition/Rock Ridge Public Schools

Early Childhood Community Coordinator: Shanon Kush-Jeffery

Email Address: shanon.kush@rrps.org Phone #: 218-742-3805

Fiscal Agent Name: Rock Ridge Public Schools
 (The ACH be paid to this organization as listed above) Please pay via check

Below are 4 opportunities available. Check each opportunity that you are interested in participating in. Please note that final selection and funding allotted for each opportunity will be based on available resources. **Please complete Attachment A providing a brief narrative outlining the key activities for each area in which you are planning to participate, along with a budget which combines all funding sources.**

- ✓ 1. **Early Childhood Initiative Community Coordinator** (\$1,500)
- 2. **Child Care Mentoring** (\$5,000)
- ✓ 3. **Early Learning Scholarship Outreach** (\$2,500)
- ✓ 4. **Prenatal to Grade 3 Program (Grant)** (\$1,000 with opportunity to request potential funding if you are serving a large and/or multiple school districts up to a possible \$4,000)

- € **1. Early Childhood Initiative Community Coordinator** from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026. This \$1,500 in funding is to be used within the contract period to pay the salary of the local coordinator and related expenses.

Early Childhood Community Coordinator Responsibilities include:

- A. Share updates with the Northland Foundation about early care and education news and happenings in your community, especially in relation to licensed child care, as well as consider participation in special project opportunities.
- B. Complete required narrative and financial reports on the progress of the Early Childhood Initiative for their community.
- C. Participate in the Early Childhood Regional Alliance Meetings.

- € **2. Child Care Mentoring Project** - Interested Early Childhood Coalitions will build connections and provide support to licensed child care programs during July 25, 2025, to June 30, 2026. The Child Care Mentoring Project is designed to support the social-emotional well-being and school readiness of young children.

€ Child Care Mentoring Responsibilities include:

- A. Work with 4-6 Child Care Programs from July 25, 2025, to June 30, 2026.
- B. Plan 4-6 sessions focused on social-emotional development for each program.
- C. Share information about Parent Aware and Early Learning Scholarships
- D. Collect required evaluation data and provide information to the Northland Foundation.
- E. Participate in Learning Community Meetings.
- F. Complete Final Project Report.

Participating sites will invite approximately 4 to 6 licensed child care programs to receive mentoring support from an Early Childhood Family Educator, Parent Educator, or Mental Health Specialist who will offer virtual and/or onsite visits to promote skill-building in the areas of healthy social-emotional development and trauma-informed care. Funding may be used to support staff time to coordinate the project and for an early care and education professional to visit participating licensed child care programs 4 to 6 times by June 30, 2026. Funding can also be used for materials/supplies and travel (if needed). It is anticipated that each will be one hour plus one hour of prep/wrap up time.

- € **3. Early Learning Scholarship Outreach Partner** - The Northland Foundation has been serving as the Minnesota Early Learning Scholarship Area Administrator for Northeast Minnesota (Region 3) for the Minnesota Department of Education since 2017. This opportunity would assist with spreading the word about Early Learning Scholarships through your organizational and community efforts and providing resource navigation support, especially for children in priority populations (e.g., foster care, child protection, teen parents, homelessness, etc.). A total of \$2,500 in funding support will be available for your efforts for the period July 25, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Funding may be used to support staff time, outreach events, as well as provide incentives (food/snacks, children's books, gift cards, etc.), scholarship application materials, and other outreach resources.

Responsibilities include:

- Serve as an Early Learning Scholarship Outreach Partner, targeted children from priority populations for the period July 25, 2025, June 30, 2026.
- Participate in training sessions about the Early Learning Scholarship program provided by the Northland Foundation.
- Share information about Parent Aware and Early Learning Scholarships with your networks, program participants, especially newborn units at regional hospitals, as well as other local and regional partners.
- Provide resource navigation supports.
- Collect required outreach data and provide information to the Northland Foundation on a quarterly basis (reporting template to follow).
- Share updates at Learning Community Meetings when possible.
- Maintain project records and receipts.

€ **4. Prenatal to Grade 3 Program** from August 1, 2025, to July 30, 2026. This \$1,000 in funding is to be used for expanding Prenatal to Grade 3 planning and implementation. Larger school districts or multiple school district service areas can make a case for additional funding.

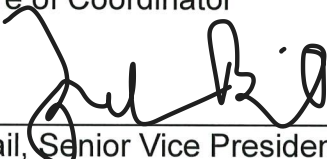
Responsibilities include:

- Share updates at Learning Community Meetings when possible.
- Complete a final report.

We are interested in receiving these resources from the Northland Foundation:

- € Getting School Ready Guides
- € Math & Language Tip Cards
- € Toolbox for Success
- € Tips for Parents

We would like # ____ of each of the above checklist.

<u>Shanon Kush-Jeffery</u>	<u>07/22/25</u>
Signature of Coordinator	Date
	8/5/2025
<u>Zane Bail, Senior Vice President of Programming & Development</u>	<u>Date</u>

Please complete and return to
Sandy Schieber at Sandy@northlandfdn.org
by July 25, 2025

Name: Shanon Kush-Jeffery

Community: Quad City Coalition/Rock Ridge Public Schools
Early Childhood Coalition Coordinator

Please share 2-3 sentence about your local early childhood efforts and express your commitment to undertaken the roles outlined on page 1.

I will share early care news and trainings with Mt. Iron public schools and the local childcare providers in our coalition area. I will help oversee the childcare mentoring program, connect with parents and resource providers for ELS outreach, monitor the FFN programming and complete the P3 project in our coalition area. I understand the commitment that I am undertaking for our service area.

Child Care Mentoring Program

Please provide 2-3 paragraphs answering the following questions.

1. Overall description of mentoring project plans, include the implementation timeline, key activities, the number of sessions per program, session type (e.g., virtual, in-person, both), the focus of the session's duration of each session.
2. How many child care programs do you plan to work with on this project? How will you identify the 4-6 licensed child care programs to be served?
3. Describe who will be involved in implementing the project, include the name(s) and current role(s)?
4. If applicable, please share how does your program built on your past Mentoring Program?
5. Project Coordinator Name and Email (if different than EC Coordinator)

ELS Outreach Partner

Briefly describe your outreach plans, including plans to reach priority populations and your commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities outlined on page 2.

My outreach plans this year include placing early learning scholarship information in the baby bags that our coalition provides to new mothers at the regional hospital. I plan to network more with social services providing the necessary links and supporting them with navigation help. I will also answer any questions and update new requirements to our local childcare providers. I will provide scholarship information at outreach events that I am tabling.

Prenatal to Grade 3 Program

Please provide 2-3 paragraphs answering the following questions.

1. What is the overall goal/purpose of your Prenatal to Grade 3 Team during the 2025-2026 school year? The goal of the Prenatal to Grade 3 team grant is to provide new teachers with the training and tools to help students self regulate. Teachers and paras will meet 6 times throughout the school year to discuss social emotional regulation strategies. These meetings will talk about second step and Leader in Me
2. How will your Prenatal to Grade 3 efforts engage families with young children?

Families will receive a pyramid newsletter every month listening helpful social emotional skills to try at home.

3. Identify the individuals and partners who will be involved in your Prenatal to Grade 3 efforts. Please include titles and roles.

Elizabeth Peters-Rust-presenter

Sheena Stefanich-Principal

Kathy Kemen-teacher

Ashley Tikkanen-teacher

Kayla Evans-ECSE teacher

Kindergarten representative teacher

Shanon Kush-Jeffery-early childhood coordinator/facilitator

Dominique Littel-teacher

new teacher

new ECSE teacher

4. Describe the support and contributions from your school district for your Prenatal to Grade 3 program. Approximately how many children (Prenatal to Grade 3) in your school district will benefit from this effort?

The school district is paying Elizabeth Peters-Rust to give a presentation on social emotional growth of young children with strategies that teachers can use in the classroom to set them up for success throughout the school year. The school is also supporting the classrooms using the Leader in Me model with online support from the manufacturer from PreK to 6 grade.

Approximately 120 will directly benefit this year and more students as years go on.

5. Project Coordinator Name and Email (if different than EC Coordinator)



**Project Budget for the
Early Childhood Partner Opportunity
2025-2026**

Please note budget corrections made to align with funding

Community: Quad City Coalition/Rock Ridge Public Schools

Total Requested: \$ 5,500

Implementation Timeline: July 25, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Budget Line Item (List each item separately)	NORTHLAND FOUNDATION FUNDS	OTHER SUPPORT		TOTAL (Line Item)
		Cash	*In-Kind	
1. Early Childhood Coalition Coordinator	\$ 1,500	\$	\$	\$ 1,500
2. ELS Outreach Partner-staff and incentives	\$ 2,500	\$	\$	\$ 2,500
3. staff time-teachers & paras	\$ 1,712.16 ^{\$1,000}	\$ 712.16	\$ 200	\$ 1912.16
4. Presenter	\$	\$	\$ 500	\$ 500
5.	\$	\$	\$	\$
6.	\$	\$	\$	\$
7.	\$	\$	\$	\$
8.	\$	\$	\$	\$
9.	\$	\$	\$	\$
10.	\$	\$	\$	\$
Column Totals	\$ 5,712.16 ^{\$5500}	\$ 712.16	\$ 700	\$ 6412.16

*In-kind refers to any supplies, staff time, use of space, or other non-cash contributions that are provided by your organization or others.

Please Provide a Brief Budget Narrative:

The majority of money requested will be used to pay teachers and paras for their time at meetings related to the P3 program. The school will pay for presenter and supplies.