

MLC-FY21

FY21 Fall Application for Funding (Returning Applicants)

Morningstar Learning Center

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Application Form

Guidelines & Applications Tips

UPDATING INFORMATION FROM SPRING:

You will NOT need to retype your responses from the Spring application. Use the "Copy Answers" button at the top of the page to transfer your responses from the FY21 Spring application (submitted in April 2020) to this Application. You can make changes to any of your responses that need updating. If a response has not changed there is no need to update the response

NEW QUESTIONS:

★ Questions that were not asked on the Spring Application and are new to the Fall Cycle are indicated with a gold star

REQUIRED VS OPTIONAL QUESTIONS:

- All required questions are marked with an *asterisk* and must be answered in order to submit the application
- All optional questions have no notation and are not required in order to submit the application. But if an optional question applies to you, please provide an answer.

GUIDELINES:

- Please direct questions or concerns to Jenny Muscat, Operations Manager, at Jenny@ResortTax.Org or 406-995-3234
- Please only provide the information requested within this application
 - Supplemental materials will not be accepted
- Blackmail or bribery of staff or board members is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification
- Please proofread your application for grammar and validate your data prior to submission
- Avoid organizational jargon and use layman's terms to minimize follow up questions
- You may SAVE the application at any time and return to it
- Final submission happens upon clicking 'SUBMIT'
- **The deadline for applications is Wednesday, September 30 @ 11:59 pm (Mountain Time)**

Organization/Background Information

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please verify and update any information that has changed since you applied for the FY21 Spring Cycle.

Request Title*

Please **update** with your "'Organization Acronym"-FY21 Fall'. For example: *BSRAD-FY21 Fall*

MLC-FY21

Number of Projects/Programs*

How many projects/programs are you requesting Resort Tax funds for in the Fall cycle?

- If you are requesting funds for **FEWER** projects than in the spring keep the number of projects the same as it was in the spring and in the corresponding project question section(s) enter \$0 for the amount requested **and** provide an explanation about why this project is no longer taking place
- If you are requesting funds for the **SAME** number of projects as the spring keep the number of projects the same and update/verify each project question section accordingly
- If you are requesting funds for **MORE** projects than in the spring enter the new (higher) number here and fill in the additional project question section accordingly
 - The maximum number of projects you may request funds for is 6

1

For applicants with multiple projects please note that the application will expand and create additional project/program information sections for each project you are requesting funding for based upon the number entered above. Please enter your projects in order of highest to lowest priority as you complete the application.

Funds Not Awarded*

★ How would your projects/programs be affected if Resort Tax funding were not awarded?

In order to maintain our current enrollment income without Resort Tax funding, we would have to increase enrollment by \$13 per day for every enrolled child. That is an average of a 21% increase in current tuition prices that families would be responsible to cover. Currently 80% of MLC families indicated Morningstar's tuition costs are affordable under the current conditions of receiving the Big Sky Resort Tax Discount for locally employed families and MLC's Family Assistance Scholarships. The tuition increase (caused by loss of Resort Tax funding) would just be to maintain - not increase revenue, which MLC desperately needs in order to increase wages to hire and maintain teachers. Currently 73% of MLC families budget \$500-\$1200/month for childcare costs. If families were required to increase their budgets by 21%, the majority of families would be responsible for paying an additional \$105-\$252/month or \$1,260-\$3,024 per year. This runs an extreme risk of MLC's childcare services becoming cost prohibitive for locally employed families.

Data from a recent survey of MLC's families supports this point. 76% of respondents indicated their ability to afford childcare would be impacted by not receiving the Big Sky Resort Tax Tuition Discount. Additionally, 64% of respondents stated if they could not afford childcare they would quit their jobs and/or move out of Big Sky. Not only would MLC lose families, the Big Sky community would lose valuable workers from its workforce.

Total Funds Requested FY21 Fall*

★ What is the total amount of funds your organization is requesting for all projects/programs for this cycle (1/1/216/30-21):

Please ensure that all requests for all projects add up to this total, the form does not calculate a total for you.

\$168,255.00

Additional COVID-19 Funds*

★ Has your organization received any funding from any of the following programs? (Check all that apply)

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

COVID-19 Funds Explanation

★ Please explain how the funding received affects your FY21 Fall Resort Tax request:

Provide detail on:

- *What funding was received (sources and amounts)*
- Amount your request to Resort Tax can be reduced (total ask and broken down by project) if applicable
- When funds were received/expected to be received
- Any other important information regarding this additional funding

Morningstar received a PPP loan. We received \$30,000.00 and went towards daily operation costs and staff paychecks during the months of March, April and May when enrollment was significantly down due to COVID-19. MLC was only open for front line workers and essential families in the Big Sky community, during that time.

COVID-19 Impact*

★ What has the impact of COVID-19 been on your operation and how has this impact affected your Fall Resort Tax request?

Covid-19's widespread effect over all of Big Sky, specifically lack of workforce, has been noticeable. There are fewer workers, thus the employment market is extremely competitive. We are having challenges staffing MLC in all positions: administration, lead teachers and teacher assistants. Staff hiring and retention has historically been a targeted area for improvement for MLC; however, in 2019 MLC reached its highest point of turnover rate at 100%. From March through September 2020, MLC has replaced 67% of staff, with 30% of positions still not filled. When asked for changes or suggestions families would like MLC to implement, 67% of respondents listed staff turnover and retention as an area that needs to be addressed.

Otherwise MLC was impacted only by reduced enrollment during quarantine. MLC did not close due to Covid-19, and was utilized primarily by local essential workers' families. Daily enrollment has dropped from an average of 50 students per day down to an average of 25 students per day and has stayed at that number due to lack of staff. Our resort tax request is not affected by Covid-19 directly. However, losing our current support in this current climate of Covid-19 would be devastating.

PAYMENT REQUEST SCHEDULE INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Update** your estimated payment request schedule for your entire request for the FY21 Fall Cycle (1/1/21-6/30/21)
- For any month you are NOT requesting funds please enter 0

Please note:

- The first-day funds can be requested for the fall cycle is 1/15/21
 - Funding will not be available until a contract has been signed and the Post Award Follow Up has been completed
- Enter your estimated schedule based on when you plan to request funds from Resort Tax

January 2021 Estimate*

Only for expenses incurred from 1/1-1/15/21 that you plan to request by 1/15/21. DO NOT INCLUDE ANY FUNDS YOU WERE AWARDED IN THE SPRING CYCLE IN THIS AMOUNT.

\$16,485.00

February 2021 Estimate*

\$14,625.00

March 2021 Estimate*

\$13,380.00

April 2021 Estimate*

\$13,965.00

May 2021 Estimate*

\$13,965.00

June 2021 Estimate*

\$13,740.00

July 2021 Request Total Request*

★ *You may request funds until 7/15/21, for the FY21 Fall cycle for any expenses incurred before 6/30/21.*

\$13,740.00

When projecting future requests, please ensure these numbers are as accurate as possible. While calculating these numbers keep the following in mind:

- Economic Growth
- Staffing Changes
- Changes in Community Needs

Future Funding Request FY22 Spring*

★ What is your forecasted Resort Tax request for the FY22 Spring cycle (7/1/21-12/31/21)?

\$168,255.00

Future Funding FY22 Fall*

★ What is your forecasted Resort Tax request for the FY22 Fall cycle (1/1/22-6/30/22)?

\$168,255.00

Future Funding Request FY23*

What is your forecasted Resort Tax request for FY23 (7/1/22-6/30/23)?

\$178,502.00

Future Funding Request FY24*

★ What is your forecasted Resort Tax request for FY24 (7/1/23-6/30/24)?

\$180,000.00

Project/Program 1 Information

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please verify and update any information that has changed since you applied for the FY21 Spring Cycle.

If this project/program will not be taking place in the Fall cycle enter \$0 in the amount requested text box and provide information about why this project is no longer taking place in the "Additional Information" question later in this section.

Project/Program 1*

Tuition Reduction

Amount Requested | Project/Program 1*

Update the amount you are requesting for project/program 1 for the Fall cycle (1/1/21-6/30/21):

\$168,255.00

PAYMENT REQUEST SCHEDULE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Enter your estimated payment request schedule for project/program 1 ONLY for the FY21 Fall Cycle (1/1/21-6/30/21)
- For any month you are NOT requesting funds from Resort Tax please enter 0
- Please ensure your monthly request add up to the Amount Requested for this project/program
 - The application does not add up the requests for you

January 2021 Est Project/Program 1*

★ *Only for expenses incurred from 1/1-1/15/21 that you plan to request by 1/15/21. DO NOT INCLUDE ANY FUNDS YOU WERE AWARDED IN THE SPRING CYCLE IN THIS AMOUNT.*

\$16,485.00

February 2021 Est Project/Program 1*



\$14,625.00

March 2021 Est Project/Program 1*



\$13,380.00

April 2021 Est Project/Program 1*



\$13,965.00

May 2021 Est Project/Program 1*



\$13,965.00

June 2021 Est Project/Program 1*



\$13,740.00

July 2021 Est Project/Program 1*

★ You may request funds until 7/15/21, for the FY21 Fall cycle for any expenses incurred before 6/30/21.

\$13,740.00

Goals | Project/Program 1

What are the goals of this project/program and how will they be measured?

MLC's goal is to provide affordable, high-quality childcare. This childcare option allows more families to make Big Sky their home, which builds a stronger community. MLC is the only full-time, year-round early education childcare open in the community. The cost to live and work in Big Sky is much higher than in other rural Montana communities. Because of the high cost of living, families who live and work here often work several hourly jobs to make ends meet and few have year round salaried positions. Historically, the lack of childcare has forced many families to move out of the community. The Tuition Reduction Program makes high-quality childcare more available to Big Sky families.

Project/Program 1 Spring Funding*

★ Was this project/program awarded funds in the FY21 Spring cycle?

If yes, please elaborate in the next question:

Yes

Project/Program 1 Spring Funding Explanation

★ If applicable, please describe how you met the measurable goals outlined in your Spring application:

Morningstar Learning Center's (MLC) goal is to provide affordable, high-quality early childhood education to our community. MLC is the only full time, year round state licensed learning center option for the Big Sky community. The Tuition Reduction program allows for affordable, high quality childcare for locally employed families.

Our enrollment is slowly increasing each month and returning to 2019's numbers.

June 2020: 887 Student enrolled

July 2020: 988 Student enrolled

August 2020:864 Student enrolled

MLC is continuing to hire qualified staff that allows us to continue to enroll students to max out our classrooms.

Project/Program 1 Additional Information*



What additional information would you like to share with the Board regarding this project/program?

Morningstar Learning Center would like the Big Sky Resort Tax Board to know that they are working towards long term solutions to funding. These include developing the neighboring land owned by MLC for employee housing and establishing a foundation for donations that can be used in a sustainable manner for future costs. MLC hopes to set up meetings discussing their future plans with Resort Tax members and staff.

Community Messaging 1*



Please provide a brief (1-2 sentence) description of **this project/program** for community messaging purposes:

The Big Sky Resort Tax Enrollment Discount for locally employed families provides reduced childcare tuition costs to help offset Big Sky's high cost of living.

Application Verification & Summary

APPLICATION VERIFICATION:

Please ensure that your application is complete, all calculations are accurate, and it has been proofread before submitting for Board review. Once you select Submit you will no longer be able to edit your application.

Verification*

Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all the information requested in the proper format by the application deadline.

I verify that the application is complete and contains accurate information

Date of Submission*

09/30/2020

Name of Submitter*

Kelsey Hash

Once you click 'SUBMIT', do not refresh the page. It may take a few moments to process the information and submit the application.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

No files were uploaded