

Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool

500 Washington Street, Suite 409
P.O. Box 391
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 433-1938

Chelsea Friends and Family Wellness Coalition Grant Proposal November 2018

OUR ORGANIZATION HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool (CCCP) has been continuously running since March of 1972 and officially received non-profit status in 1975. We have maintained 501c3 status and have remained in good standing. From the early days of 12 families to now over 40 families on an annual basis, the Chelsea Children's Co-Op has been a huge part of the early education of 3-4 year olds in the community of Chelsea, MI and beyond. Currently, we provide 3 different classes of varying sizes and ages that meet throughout the week taught by licensed professionals. Our board of directors consists of 10 members and meets monthly.

OVERVIEW

We are applying for the Chelsea Friends and Family Wellness Coalition Grant as our preschool has found a new permanent home at St. Paul United Church of Christ, here in Chelsea. Please note, CCCP is not associated with the church and will only act as a tenant at this location under a 5 yr fixed lease subject to renewal.

We are hoping to use these funds to upgrade the current outdoor space. While the interior space is larger than our current location and offers many upgrades, the exterior playground is currently lacking. One of our founding principles of our preschool is "the power of play" and we see a great outdoor space an important piece of that. Our goal is to add a new climber, fence in the tricycle track, extend a sidewalk, and add a nature play area and garden space. This would be a great asset to the community and could be linked to the existing trail system within the area. Our goal would be to have all upgrades completed by late July 2019. Based on historical costs and budgeting, we are applying for \$12,000 in grant monies.

STATEMENT OF NEED

As part of our due diligence we have consulted with Matt and Ashley from 5 Healthy Towns about the cost and feasibility of this project. Based on their feedback and our research, this project relates to 5 Healthy Towns missions of stewardship, innovation and collaboration in relation to physical activity, eating better, and community connection. We are providing good stewardship through improving the green space around St. Paul's Church, which could connect to the trail system around the hospital. We are hoping to provide an innovative nature play space in addition to a new climber to foster a natural play based environment to teach the children about the importance of physical activity. This is a collaborative effort between the Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool and St. Paul's Church as well as the entities responsible for the

trail system around the hospital. The garden space will teach the children and the church community about growing vegetables and eating healthy. Our students are encouraged to dress for outdoor activities as outdoor play is an important part of the daily schedule throughout the school year.

While “Chelsea” is in our name we serve families throughout western Washtenaw County and beyond with no restrictions based on home address. To that point, we currently have families enrolled from Ann Arbor, Dexter, Manchester, Grass Lake, and Munith. While our annual enrollment is limited due to teacher/student ratio limits, we envision the use of the outdoor space beyond just our Co-Op families. St. Paul Church holds many activities throughout the year that could benefit from this space, and its proximity to trails near St. Joseph Mercy Hospital could make it a welcome addition.

PROJECT DESIGN

In order to make this new outdoor space functional for our school of 45 families we will need to upgrade the existing space. Currently, there is a small fenced in area that has a climber and some swings. We would like to upgrade the current dated-climber, fence in the tricycle track, and add a nature play area and garden space. We would also like to add a mulched trail that leads from the lower classroom to the playground. We estimate the renovation costs of the playground to be \$25,000. The cost of the project will be shared by the Chelsea Children’s Cooperative Preschool and St. Paul’s Church with the support of additional community groups such as the Boy Scouts and Kiwanis.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Our Board Members meet the second Tuesday of every month. Upon grant approval, we plan on assigning a committee to oversee this project and to provide monthly updates on the progress as part of our monthly Board meetings. Early planning would include ordering a new climbing structure, sidewalk connection installation, fencing, and a nature play and garden area.

We are planning on moving to St. Paul’s church sometime after the current school year ends (Spring-2019), with the goal of completing the outdoor area upgrade by the end of July 2019 in order to be ready for enrolling classes in September.

BUDGET

All costs outlined below are estimated and based on our estimates as of November 2018.

Projected Income		
Chelsea Friends and Family Wellness Coalition	\$12,000	
Chelsea Children's Cooperative Preschool	\$5,000	
St. Pauls Church	\$5,000	
Volunteer Labor and 'At Cost' Supplies	\$3,000	Boy Scouts, local hardware and building stores, Kiwanis, Garden Clubs
TOTAL	\$25,000	

Projected Expenditure		
Equipment - Starburst play system and wheelchair ramp	\$12,919.50	
Supplies - Wood Playground Mulch, Duraliner, Playground Border	\$2,526	
Supplies - Fencing, Nature Play Materials, Garden Materials	\$2,670.50	
Labor- equipment rental, installation of play structure etc.	\$6,884	
TOTAL	\$25,000	

Aerial views of the St Paul Church (new permanent location of Chelsea Co-Op Preschool):

