



May 19, 2021

The Honorable Jay Inslee
The Honorable Christine Rolfes, Senate Ways & Means Chair
The Honorable June Robinson, Senate Ways & Means Vice Chair, Operating
The Honorable Lynda Wilson, Senate Ways & Means Ranking Member
The Honorable Sharon Brown, Senate Ways & Means Assistant Ranking Member, Operating
The Honorable Timm Ormsby, House Appropriations Chair
The Honorable Steve Bergquist, House Appropriations Vice Chair
The Honorable Mia Gregerson, House Appropriations Vice Chair
The Honorable Nicole Macri, House Appropriations Vice Chair
The Honorable Drew Stokesbary, House Appropriations Ranking Member
The Honorable Kelly Chambers, House Appropriations Assistant Ranking Member
The Honorable Chris Corry, House Appropriations Assistant Ranking Member
The Honorable Drew MacEwen, House Appropriations Assistant Ranking Member

Dear Governor Inslee and Budget Leaders:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and individuals, the No Child Left Inside Coalition extends our sincere thanks for your investment in connecting underserved youth to nature through the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grant program in the 2021-23 operating budget. NCLI supports critical outdoor educational programs in rural and urban communities across the state, helping students to experience the natural world in myriad life-changing ways. The \$4.5 million in funding for the program will support 65% of funding requests received this year, serving more than 116,000 youth. Public funding will be matched by more than \$6.4 million in private dollars and contributions that leverage this critical state investment.

As we work together to recover from the COVID pandemic, funding for this program will provide invaluable opportunities for youth to come together, reconnect, and experience the healing powers of nature. The \$4.5 million in state funding for NCLI is a down payment for future leaders, innovators, and advocates of our communities. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to connecting our children to Washington's great outdoors.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Washington Trails Association

Christine Mahler
Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition

Jeff Giesen
North Cascades Institute

Breanna Trygg and Monica Anney
Wild Grief

Steve Smith
Experiential Consulting, LLC

Betsy Robblee
The Mountaineers

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North Cascades Institute

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Oak Rankin
Glacier Peak Institute

Jared Sanford
Lifeline Connections

Nathan Daniel
Great Peninsula Conservancy

Jeanette Peters
Pierce County Parks

Catherine Collins
Sound Experience (schooner Adventuress)

Stacey Hinden
Vashon Wilderness Program

Sheila Wilson
Nisqually River Foundation

Carolina Pfister
CultureSeed

Elise Hirschi
Bike Works Seattle

Nancy K Hunnicutt
The Salvation Army of Spokane

Jill Scheffer
Kittitas Environmental Education Network

Amy Eberling
The Salish Sea School

David Dunphy
Youth Experiential Training Institute (Y.E.T.I.)

Kitty Craig
The Wilderness Society

Giovannina Souers
Seattle Parks and Recreation

Lorae Homme-Buck
Lake Spokane Parks and Recreation District

John Hayes
Mount Rainier Institute-University of Washington

Paris McClusky
Puget Sound Estuarium

Michelle Schuyleman
Private practice (mental health)

Sarah Pierce
City Of Fife

Sara Welsh
Community Boating Center Bellingham

Cara Stoddard
North Cascades Institute

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Liz Hadley
World Relief Seattle

Tonya Kobluk
Camp STIX Diabetes Programs

Theresa Samuelsen
Camp Fire NCW

Liz Theaker
Camp Korey

Martin LeBlanc
LBC Action

Lee Jordan
Mt. Vernon School District

No Child Left Inside Testimonials

Through the No Child Left Behind program, children with serious medical conditions and disabilities can get outside, explore, and be the heroes of their own adventures at Camp Korey and similar camps throughout Washington.

- Liz Theaker, Camp Korey

[NCLI] funding could not come at a better time to help kids get outside and to socially connect with one another while learning in an environmental setting.

- Theresa Samuelsen, Camp Fire NCW

Because of NCLI we can introduce ALL students to the incredible marine life that depends on the Salish Sea and offer ways they can help protect and restore it. THANK YOU!

- Amy Eberling, The Salish Sea School

NCLI funding allowed KEEN to establish a nature immersion school that provides thousands of hours of outdoor curriculum-based programming for our region. We were able to establish the program, ensure its sustainability, and now we are seeking additional funds to expand the program offerings to include more K-9th grade students.

- Jill Scheffer, Kittitas Environmental Education Network

Our Mountain Workshops program has served youth in the Puget Sound since 2011. Mountain Workshops help connect marginalized youth to the outdoors through activities like hiking, rock climbing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, stewardship projects, and more. Through partnering with local schools and nonprofit organizations, Mountain Workshops support the needs of youth who traditionally face significant barriers to accessing the outdoors. The goal of the program is to provide single and multi-day outdoor experiences that inspire underrepresented youth to build a lifelong connection with nature. More than 90% of the activities will take place on public lands.

- Betsy Roblee, The Mountaineers

Thank you for valuing access to the outdoors for all!

- Liz Hadley, World Relief Seattle

The NCLI program will benefit the students in the Mount Vernon School District by funding the 5th Grade Hike. The 5th Grade Hike is an opportunity for our 5th grade students to learn hiking and trail etiquette, hike on a local mountain, and learn about the flora and fauna on that mountain. This is an opportunity that would not be possible, especially for our underserved students, without the funding from NCLI.

- Lee Jordan, Mt. Vernon School District

Our mission is to get children and families of all ages outside to deeply and meaningfully connect with the natural world, to cultivate curiosity and create healthy minds and bodies. We want people to fall in love with the natural world so that we are inspired to do everything we can to protect it. This money is so necessary to help fund our work. Thank you for investing in children and their families, education and the environment all at once!!

- Sibyl Maer-Fillo, Washington Outdoor School

I hope this funding will support a program that gets all of our fifth graders outside hiking! Thank you so much for supporting outdoor experiences and physical activity!

- Nikki Klinger, PE Teacher

NCLI funding has allowed us to work closely with Nisqually tribal youth, engaging them in real world service learning about salmon recovery, and connecting them with nature within the watershed that their people have stewarded since time immemorial!

- Sheila Wilson, Nisqually River Foundation

The No Child Left Inside program is vital to our ability to bring young people from our State's diverse communities aboard the schooner Adventuress; together with NCLI, we are working to foster the next generation of stewards of our precious marine environment. We need ALL youth to care for Puget Sound and in return, these young people can experience the joy, peace and wonder of our extraordinary outdoors. Thank you!

- Catherine Collins, Sound Experience (schooner Adventuress)

The NCLI program is important to the work of sustaining and growing our major, annual K-12 environmental education field trips for underserved youth in the South Sound.

- Paris McClusky, Puget Sound Estuarium

The NCLI program will help the children in the Nine Mile School District.

- Lorae Homme-Buck, Lake Spokane Parks and Recreation District

Youth playing in, learning from and caring for forests and rivers. The programs happen due to NCLI. Thank you.

- Oak Rankin, Glacier Peak Institute

The NCLI program makes it possible for The Mountaineers to support over 1,000 Puget Sound youth a year with experiential outdoor opportunities on our State's public lands. For many of the youth in our NCLI-funded Mountain Workshops program, their participation affords them the chance to hike, backpack, camp, cross-country ski, snowshoe, kayak, and rock climb for the first time in their lives. We are very appreciative of the No Child Left Inside program and the budget leaders who make it possible!

- Amber Carrigan, The Mountaineers

This funding has helped send over 150 high school kids from the I-5 corridor on 8-12 day backpacking trips in North Cascades National Park and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Most of these kids had never even car camped before. We helped introduce a new group of young adults to public lands and they will always remember this experience.

- Jeff Giesen, North Cascades Institute

Cc: Megan Duffy, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Peter Mayer, Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Jon Snyder, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor