

**GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE (Attachment A)**

Name of Applicant Organization: Nishna Valley Community School District

Address: 58962 380th Street

Hastings, IA 51540

Phone: 712-624-8696

Fax: 712-624-9131

Contact Person: William Crilly

Board of Directors Chairperson of Applicant: Matt Perkins

Is your organization

Private School  Public School

Private Not for Profit  Government

Private for Profit  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Exempt Status [e. 501 C (3)]: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal ID#: 41-6049167

Name of Project: Nishna Valley Community School District Preschool Program

Target Population of Project: 3 & 4 Year Old Preschool Students

Category  New Project  Existing Project

Total amount requested from Boost4Families \$ \$16,720

In-Kind Contributions/10% match \$ \$65,755

Other funding secured for this project \$ \$ 9,450

TOTAL PROGRAM COST \$ \$91,925

I certify that I am duly authorized to commit and assurances for the applicant, and therefore agree to comply with all the provisions of the Request for Proposal, and to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of authorized Officer/Director of Applicant

4/30/09  
Date

Superintendent  
Title

Attachment B

**BOOST4FAMILIES  
CASS/MILLS/MONTGOMERY  
Prevention, Early Intervention, and Family Well-Being Project  
FY10 Request for Application**

Proposal Check List

Proposal Components	Proposal Page #
<b>Cover Page</b> (Attachment A)	<b>1</b>
<b>Proposal Checklist</b> (Attachment B)	<b>2</b>
<b>Action Plan/Project Narrative</b>	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>6</b>
Budget Detail (Attachment C)	<b>6</b>
Budget Narrative	<b>7</b>

**Applicant Name:**

Nishna Valley Community School District

# **Project Narrative**

## **Organization**

Nishna Valley Community School District is a small, rural district in Southwest Iowa. The current district was formed in 1960 when four towns, Emerson, Henderson, Hastings and Strahan consolidated to form the Nishna Valley District. A new building was constructed and occupied in 1963 to house the newly formed district. Enrollment peaked at over 400 students, but like all rural districts in Western Iowa, we have seen steady enrollment declines. The official count on October 1, 2008 was 209 students.

In 2007 Nishna Valley began a whole grade sharing agreement with Malvern Community School District. Grades 9-12 attend East Mills High School at Malvern, and grades 5-8 attend East Mills Middle School at Nishna Valley. Each district maintains its own elementary program. Both are governed by five member boards. The boards meet jointly several times a year to discuss opportunities and concerns.

## **Amount**

Nishna Valley Community School is requesting \$16,720 to maintain their preschool program. Financial concerns have resulted in changes to the program over the last few years. The 3 year-old class was moved under the auspices of the Nishna Valley Child Care last year in an attempt to save money. The financial position of the Child Care continues to deteriorate, and the school will again be operating the 3 year-old program. The funds requested will help continue offering services to at-risk and other children who are three and four years old.

## **Purpose of the Request**

The purpose of the request is to provide quality preschool opportunities for families who reside within the school district. The availability of early childhood programs in the area is very limited. Prior to providing preschool here, families had to transport children to Glenwood, Malvern or Red Oak to access preschool services. Pooh Corners in Malvern will close at the end of this year. The Nishna Valley program provides morning transportation for all, afternoon transportation for 4 year-olds, snacks, easy access to campus, free/reduced tuition for families that qualify, and free/reduced cost lunch for four year-old students. Strengths of the existing program are noted as familiarity with school bus, school grounds and teachers, along with readiness skills such as writing names and body basics for three year-old students and kindergarten readiness for 4 year-old children. The program is open to all preschool children who reside in the Nishna Valley School District with special emphasis on at-risk children. Children from outside the district are enrolled as space permits.

## **Project Detail**

The 2009-2010 preschool program at Nishna Valley School will have two components. The 4-year-old class will meet all day three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The 3 year-old class will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Students in both classes may ride the morning bus routes to school. The 4 year-old students may ride the bus home at night. Transportation home will not be provided for 3 year-old

students, but day care will be offered on site by a private provider. Breakfast will be available for all preschool students. Lunch will also be available for the 4 year-old students through the school's child nutrition program. Three year-old students staying for day care may also access the school's lunch program.

Both classes will be taught by an Iowa Department of Education certified teacher with early childhood endorsement and a paraprofessional with certification from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Additional paraprofessional support will be provided if necessary. A full time nurse is employed by the district and is available at all times for any illness or injury that may occur in the preschool. Both classes will be limited to 20 students, and the same room will be used for both classes.

The program has been fully accredited by NAEYC since 2005. Full accreditation will continue until 2010, at which time the program will seek renewal with NAEYC or accreditation with Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) through the Iowa Department of Education. A parent component continues to be part of the program. Parents are kept informed with daily logs providing information regarding their student's activities for that day and with the school wide newsletter and website. Parents meetings are also held in the evening to facilitate learning and enable the staff to spend quality time with the preschoolers and their families. A minimum of two parent-teacher conferences and two home visits are included in the preschool program.

### **Target Population**

Our target population is three and four year old preschool students within the Nishna Valley Community School District. At-risk students and impoverished students are the highest priority, as they are sometimes most in need of a quality preschool experience. By providing a solid educational program in a safe and caring environment, we encourage learning. By attend preschool in the same building as our elementary school, they become accustomed to being here. The transition to kindergarten will be much smoother for children moving across the hall than for students coming here for the first time.

### **Project Outcomes**

Students who attend preschool here at Nishna Valley should exit the program at the end of the 4 year-old program well prepared to be successful in kindergarten. They will have learned basic skills such as letter, number and color recognition, and shapes. They should be ready to learn by mastering social skills such as listening, talking in turn, following directions and working with others that will benefit them as they enter kindergarten. Three year old students will begin to learn some of the same basic academic and social skills, and those skills will be built upon the following year in the 4 year-old program. The ultimate outcome for any preschool program is to prepare beginning students for the start of their school careers.

### **Strategies Needed to Implement Project**

Since this is an ongoing project, strategies for successful implementation are fairly straight forward. The district will continue to provide quality staff with a teacher certified in early childhood education and highly trained paraprofessionals. Staff will continue attending training in early childhood education as provided by Loess Hills Area Education Agency. Staff and administration will continue to meet the requirements for certification of the program, either with NAEYC or QPPS.

**Describe how your organization will sustain the program if Bost4Families funding is decreased**

The district has provided preschool for district children for the last 10 years. Much of that time the program was funded by the district. We currently receive funding from the State of Iowa and from property tax to underwrite a good share of the program. That funding as well as tuition income is reflected in the proposed budget. If Boost4Families funding decreased or dried up, the district would be able to continue the preschool program, although it might be at a reduced level. Preschool is one of the highest priorities of the Board of Directors, and if necessary cuts will be made elsewhere so the preschool will continue.

**If not fully funded, is the project viable and at what minimum amount**

As noted in the previous item, the district will find funding for the preschool by reducing spending in another area.

**How will you measure your success?**

We will measure success by noting success on kindergarten readiness testing showing 95% of students are ready for kindergarten. We will keep track of students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for speech or other learning problems who exit the Special Education program upon leaving preschool. A rate of 50% no longer requiring services would indicate success. Other measurable outcomes will include the number of students served, number of home visits completed (100%), and number of parent-teacher conferences held (100%). We will consider the program a success by maintaining NAEYC or QPPS certification. Parent surveys and comments during parent-teacher conferences and home visits will be considered in evaluating the program. The program will be a success when every graduate of the preschool program is successful in kindergarten and beyond.

### DETAILED BUDGET SAMPLE (Attachment C)

Please follow the budget format below. Each category must include detail line items such as the examples in italics. Must show 10% match, either from other funds or in-kind.

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES	PROPOSAL REQUEST	OTHER FUNDING (IDENTIFY SOURCE)	OTHER FUNDING (IDENTIFY SOURCE)	IN-KIND MATCH
<b>Salaries:</b> <i>List # FTE &amp; titles</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	1 Teacher \$36,000 2 paras \$24,000 <b>\$60,000</b>	Tuition \$9,450 <b>\$9,450</b>		General Fund \$65,755 <b>\$65,755</b>
<b>Benefits:</b> <i>FICA</i> <i>IPERS/Retirement</i> <i>Health</i> <i>Dental</i> <i>Other</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 4,591 \$ 3,810 \$10,800 <b>\$19,201</b>			
<b>Training/Travel:</b> <i>Registration fees</i> <i>Out of area travel</i> <i>In area travel</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$10,000 \$ 200 <b>\$1,200</b>			
<b>Office Supplies:</b> <i>Postage</i> <i>Printing</i> <i>Supplies</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 50 \$100 \$800 <b>\$950</b>			
<b>Program Materials:</b> <i>Curriculum</i> <i>Participant materials</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$200 \$ 50 <b>\$250</b>			
<b>Equipment:</b> <i>Purchase</i> <i>Rental</i> <i>Maintenance</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$ 200 \$ 800 <b>\$1,000</b>			
<b>Purchased Services:</b> <i>Participant Transportation</i> <i>Facility rental</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$2,500 <b>\$2,500</b>			
<b>Subcontract Services:</b> <i>Subcontract with other agencies</i> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>				
<b>Other:</b> <b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$85,101</b>			
<b>Indirect Cost (not to exceed 8%)</b>	<b>\$ 6,824</b>			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$91,925</b>	<b>\$9450</b>		<b>\$65,755</b>

## **Budget Narrative**

The proposed budget shown on page 6 provides known sources of income and best estimates of projected income and expenses. Staff salary and benefits very close to what actual costs will be, as are benefits paid by the district. Training includes Early Childhood Institute held quarterly, summer programs for preschool staff, and other training opportunities that might be become available. Transportation costs for training are limited by the use of a school vehicle whenever possible. Office supplies are estimates based on total costs to the district with preschool cost extrapolated from those amounts. Curriculum materials are limited, since no textbooks are used in preschool. Costs for maintenance includes utility cost borne by the district and is estimated by the number and size of the rooms used by preschool. Participant transportation reflects a very small portion of district transportation expense for buses. Indirect costs are costs associated with the elementary principal, secretary, nurse and other support staff.

Projected income includes estimated tuition income. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches will pay no tuition or 40% of the total. Tuition costs have not been set for the coming school year by the Board of Directors, but should be somewhere around 60% of last year's tuition cost due to reduced days in session. The largest in-kind match will come from the district general fund. The amount shown is a mix of state funding and local property tax, with local property tax making up approximately 60% of the total.

## **Attachment D Scoring Sheet**

### **Scoring of Proposals**

A maximum of 100 points may be awarded to each proposal. A minimum average score of 60 or greater is required for the proposal to be considered for funding. See chart below.

Accepted proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Proposal includes details for all sections of the RFP
- Descriptions are clear and understandable
- Descriptions are responsive to the intent of the RFP objectives
- The overall ability of the applicant as judged by the review committee, to successfully complete the project within the proposed schedule. Budget, program plan (narrative) and result of program will be judged by review committee

5-Applicant's proposal is exceptional and exceeds expectations of the RFP

4-Applicant's proposal is superior or slightly exceeds expectations of the RFP

3-Applicant's proposal is satisfactory or marginally meets expectations of the RFP

2-Applicant's proposal is unsatisfactory and contains numerous deficiencies regarding the expectations of the RFP

1-Applicant's proposal is not acceptable regarding the expectations of the RFP

## ATTACHMENT D CONTINUED

<b>PROPOSAL COMPONENT</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>POSSIBLE POINTS</b>
COVER PAGE (ATTACHMENT A)	REQUIRED	5 POINTS
CHECKLIST (ATTACHMENT B)	REQUIRED	5 POINTS
BUDGET (ATTACHMENT C)	REQUIRED	10 POINTS
PROPOSAL TO COORDINATOR BY APRIL 30TH	HIGH	10 POINTS
NARRATIVE LIMITED TO 3 PAGES	MODERATE	5 POINTS
ACTION PLAN/PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL	HIGH	25 POINTS
EVALUATION OF PROGRAM	HIGH	15 POINTS
SUSTAINABILTY	HIGH	5 POINTS
FUNDING SOURCES BEYOND BOOST4FAMILIES/10% MATCH	MODERATE	5 POINTS
DOES PROPOSAL FIT WITH BOOST4FAMILIES PRIORITIES	HIGH	15 POINTS