



No Child Left Inside

GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION SUMMARY (2025-2027)

Number of Applications
261

Total Grant Request
\$21,459,853

Number of Youth Served
217,500+

Total Hours of Outdoor
Experiences
22 million+

Eligible for Free and Reduced
Price Meals
70 percent

Youth of Color
55 percent

English Language Learners
16 percent

Youth with Disabilities
15 percent

Providing Quality Opportunities for Underserved Youth to Learn, Play, and Experience the Outdoors

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grant program provides quality opportunities for underserved, underrepresented, and historically excluded youth to learn, play, and experience the outdoors. The Washington State Legislature established the program in 2007 with two primary goals: to improve the overall academic performance, self-esteem, health, community involvement, and connection to nature for youth; and to empower local communities to engage youth in outdoor education and recreation experiences.

NCLI provides grants for a wide range of outdoor education and recreation activities including environmental education, leadership development, outdoor recreation and adventure, stewardship activities, and camp programs. RCO administers NCLI for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

REGULAR TIME OUTDOORS HELPS CHILDREN THRIVE

In the past few generations, childhood has moved indoors. On average, today's kids spend up to forty-four hours a week in front of screens, and less than ten minutes a day playing outdoors. And for too many kids, regular and safe access to nature is determined by race, income, identity, ability, and postal code (*Children Nature Network*).

Research has shown that spending time outdoors produces powerful benefits for children, including reduced depression and anxiety, improved focus, better social connections and enhanced learning and creativity. NCLI supports essential youth outdoor programs across the state and helps to remove barriers for youth to access the outdoors for both educational and recreational activities.

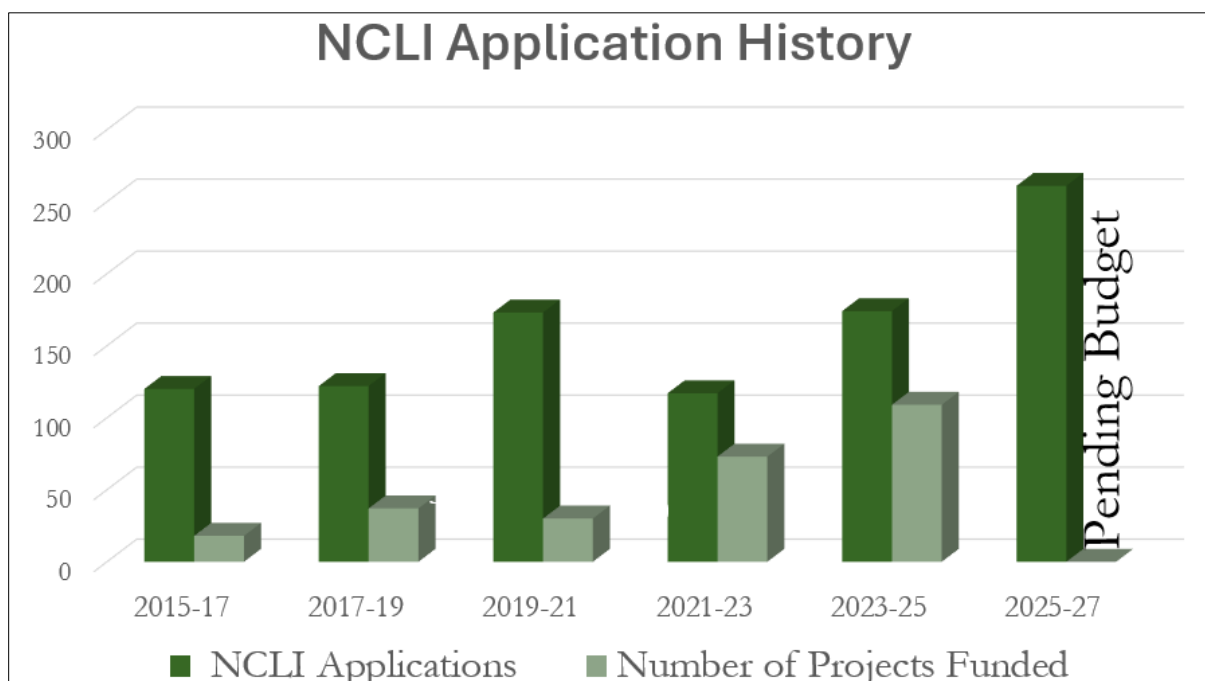
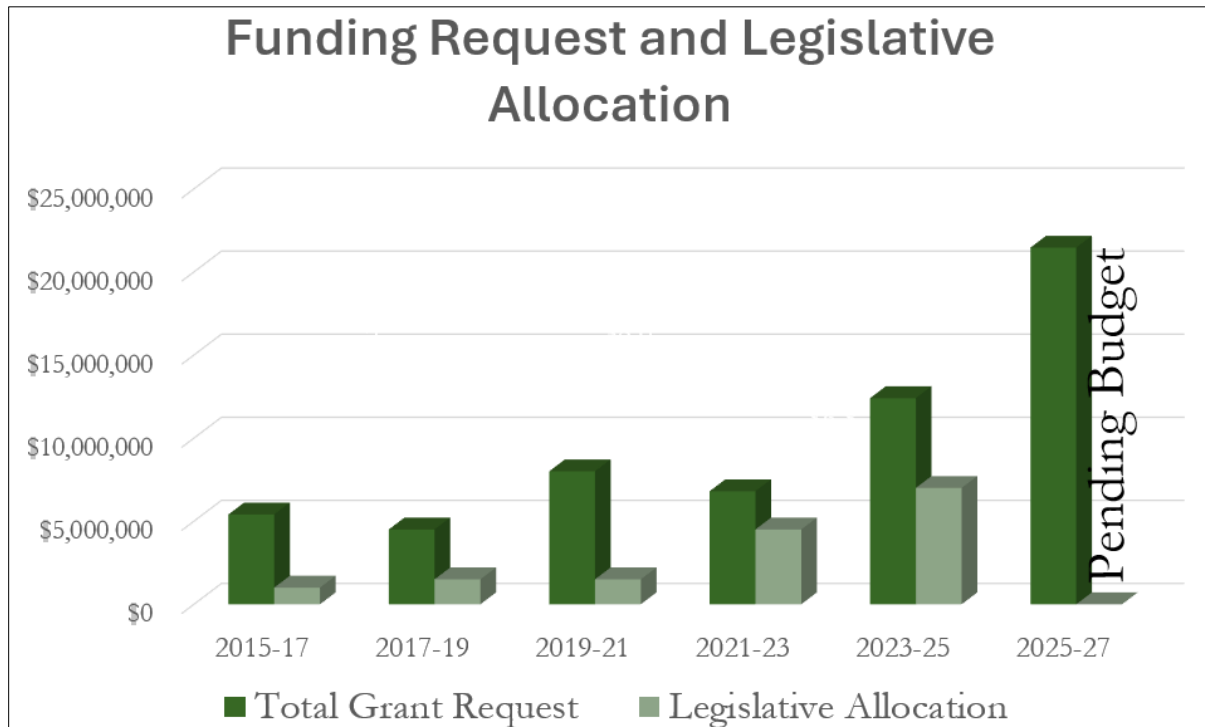
Investing in the NCLI grant program is an investment in the future of Washington.

NCLI: Investing in Washington's Youth



Proud Legacy

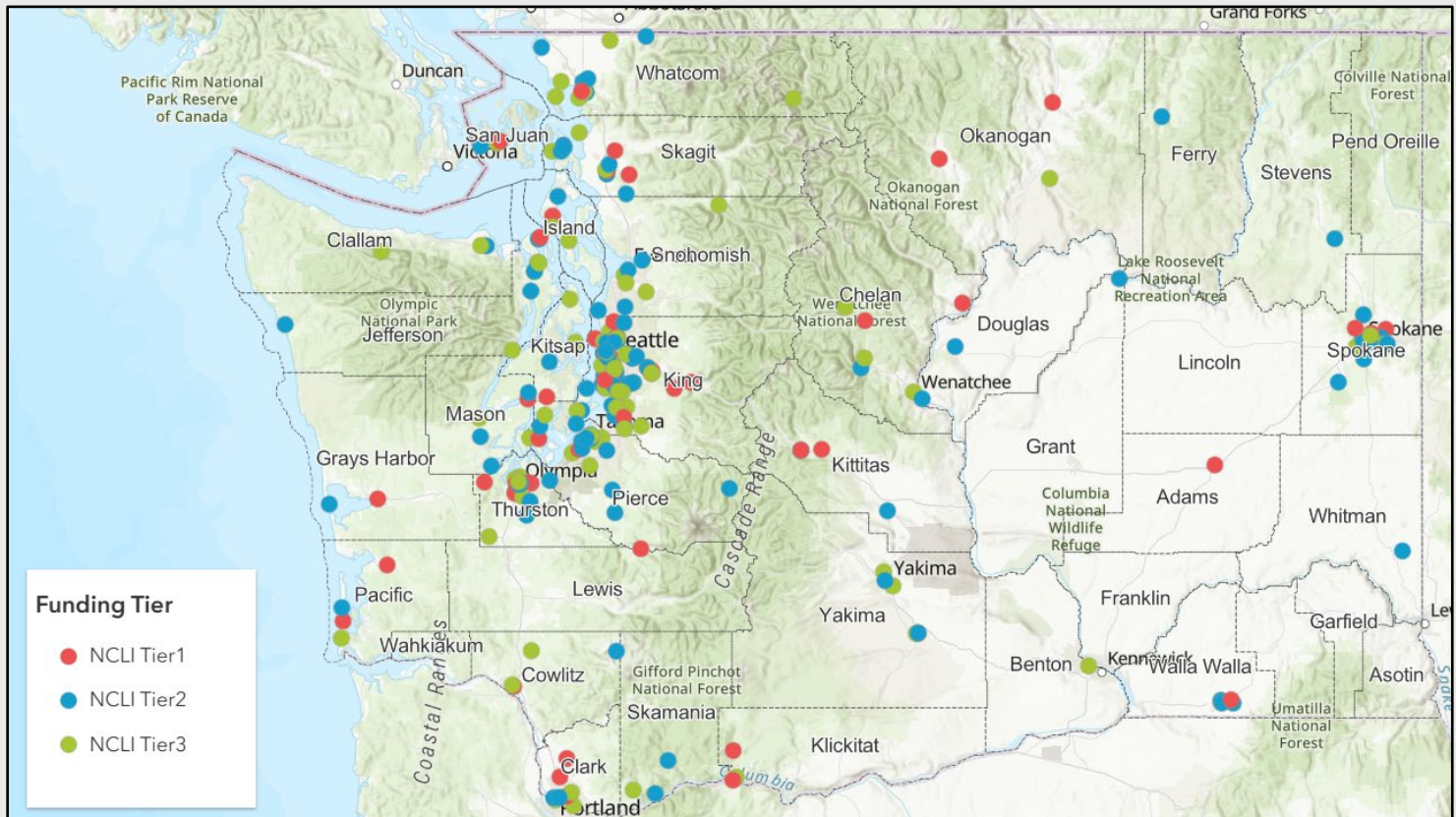
The NCLI grant program is viewed as a national leader in creating equitable access to the outdoors for underserved youth. Several states have modeled grant programs after Washington's NCLI.



NCLI: Investing in Washington's Youth



NCLI GRANT APPLICATIONS 2025-2027



Advisory Committee Members

Raina Baker, Camp Beausite Northwest, Port Hadlock
Quena Batres, The Nature Conservancy, Bellevue
Kirk Beckendorf, Cascadia Conservation District, Wenatchee
Mackenzie Berg, Bellingham
Jamie Colling, REI, Seattle
Aimee de Nay, Olympia
Britnee Harvey, Oak Harbor
Rachel Heaton, Pacific
Dawn Janow, Bainbridge Island
Linea Jantz, Spokane Valley
John Keates, Bellingham
James E King, Hollis King Consulting Company, Seattle
Chris Liu, Outdoor Asian, Seattle
Jennifer Papich, City of Spokane, Spokane
Carmetrus Parker, Tacoma
Lucy Portman, Seattle
Jacqueline Reyes, The Wilderness Society, Seattle
Chirag Sarao, Student, Bellevue

Stacey Selcho, Spokane Conservation District, Spokane
Jennifer Vickers, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Tammy VuPham, Outdoor Asian, Redmond

State Agency Members

Leia Althaus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia
Allison Cole, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Seattle
Makaela Kroin, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
Meryl Lassen, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Port Angeles
Elizabeth Schmitz, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Olympia
Yelley Taylor, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Seattle
Lindsay Walker, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia

NCLI: Investing in Washington's Youth



Getting Washington Youth Outdoors

NCLI programs provide an extremely wide range of experiences for Washington youth. This includes environmental education, leadership development, outdoor recreation and adventure, stewardship activities, and camp programs for youth under the age of nineteen. Below are examples of active NCLI grant-funded projects:



BIKE WORKS—Experiential Bicycle Youth Programs

Bike Works views the bicycle as a vehicle for change, liberation, freedom, empowerment, community, and connection. Youth programs are rooted in the belief that young people thrive when they are valued, feel a sense of belonging, and value themselves. Activities include bike repair classes, after-school and summer bike riding camps, bike and helmet giveaways, a Youth Advisory Committee opportunity and job readiness training through paid apprenticeships. These year-round programs require no equipment from participants. Youth learn the fundamentals of riding safely and skillfully, while exploring their communities by bike.

Camp Korey—Recreational Camp

The NCLI grant was used to support three therapeutic recreational camp programs designed to serve children living with life-altering medical conditions. The three programs, Family Summer Camp, Family Weekends, and Family Day Adventures, occur from March-November for more than 520 children and their families from across the state. Daily activities include archery, arts and crafts, horseback riding, campfires, Stage Night, Silly Olympics, fishing and boating in nearby Lake McMurray, outdoor exploration, and swimming. Single-day events include adaptive cycling and kayaking using public parks on the Puget Sound. The foundational pillars of Camp Korey are safety, friendship, inclusion, equity, and fun.



Hood Canal School District—Bringing Outdoor and Occupational Teaching to Students (BOOTS)

BOOTS is a forty-five-class-day component that provides challenges designed to develop teamwork, group decision-making, and outdoor skills. BOOTS is a progressive sequence of initiatives that increases confidence, self-efficacy, and the capacity to work together in a group. Standard activities include day hikes, wilderness backpacking, mountaineering, kayaking, challenge courses, and vocational modules. The mission is to immerse students in the natural world using challenging outdoor experiences to promote knowledgeable, responsible, socially skilled, and healthy youth.

NCLI: Investing in Washington's Youth



Palouse Conservation District–Cultivating Conservationists in the Palouse

With NCLI funding, the Palouse Conservation District created this project to implement an environmental education program for high school students to foster land stewardship, natural resource protection, and land advocacy while participants develop a sense of place and are exposed to a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) career paths. Guided by natural resource professionals at several county and state parks, students engage in scientific inquiry through hands-on biological assessments and experiential learning opportunities to study prairie biological diversity, watershed science, restoration along waterways, soil conservation, and indicators of ecological health.

Unleash the Brilliance–Youth Outside Experience

The mission of Unleash the Brilliance is to help youth reduce at-risk behaviors, increase school attendance, and raise graduation rates. The group works with the King County Department of Truancy Diversion, supporting twenty-two school districts in the county with truancy re-engagement workshops that embolden youth to make positive, life-changing decisions. The NCLI grant is being used to expand the outdoor environmental justice re-engagement program for “at-risk” youth. Students will receive outdoor cross-cultural enrichment activities including kayaking, rafting, camping, hiking, and environmental education activities.



Wenatchee River Institute–Traveling Naturalist in the Class

The mission of Wenatchee River Institute is to connect people, communities and the natural world. The goal of the Traveling Naturalist in the Classroom program is to help students develop their sense of place in their communities, their skills and knowledge of the natural sciences, and their interest in science careers, and inspire their appreciation, wonder, and curiosity for the natural world. This program brings naturalists into fourth-grade classes in eight schools with high poverty and high numbers of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color students. NCLI funding expanded this successful program into fifth-grade classes in the community. Institute staff take classes outside their school grounds for an outdoor learning experiences aligned with Next Generation Science Standards.

NCLI: Investing in Washington's Youth



Connecting Emerging Leaders to State Parks

Of the 261 new NCLI applications, 181 of the programs will visit state parks. Youth are exposed to diverse offerings including many pathways for future growth, personal development, and career opportunities. The 2025 application portfolio includes programs at the following state parks:

Anderson Lake	Federation Forest	Lewis and Clark	Rockport
Battle Ground Lake	Flaming Geyser	Lime Kiln Point	Saint Edward
Bay View	Fort Ebey	Loomis Lake	Saltwater
Beacon Rock	Ginkgo Petrified Forest	Lyons Ferry	Scenic Beach
Belfair	Grayland Beach	Manchester	Sequest
Birch Bay	Griffiths-Priday	Millersylvania	Sequim Bay
Bogachiel	Harstine Island	Moran	Shine Tidelands
Bottle Beach	Illahee	Mount Pilchuck	Spencer Spit
Bridgeport	Iron Horse	Mount Spokane	Squak Mountain
Bridle Trails	Jarrell Cove	Nolte	Squilchuck
Brooks Memorial	Joemma Beach	Obstruction Pass	Sun Lakes-Dry Falls
Camano Island	Joseph Whidbey	Olallie	Tolmie
Cape Disappointment	Kanaskat-Palmer	Pacific Pines	Twanoh
Centennial Trail	Kitsap Memorial	Palouse Falls	Twin Harbors
Columbia Hills	Kopachuck	Paradise Point	Wallace Falls
Columbia Plateau Trail	Lake Chelan	Pearrygin Lake	Wenatchee Confluence
Crawford	Lake Easton	Penrose Point	Westport Light
Curlew Lake	Lake Sammamish	Peshastin Pinnacles	Willapa Hills
Dash Point	Lake Sylvia	Potlatch	Yakima Sportsman
Deception Pass	Lake Wenatchee	Rainbow Falls	
Dosewallips	Larrabee	Rasar	
Doug's Beach	Leadbetter Point	Riverside	

In addition to connecting youth to state parks, forty programs plan to use the following Environmental Learning and Retreat Centers in their programming activities:

- Brooks Memorial
- Camp Delany
- Camp Wooten
- Cornet Bay
- Fort Flagler
- Lewis & Clark
- Millersylvania
- Moran
- Puffer Butte
- Ramblewood
- Wo-He-Lo

