

July 28, 2023

Child Care Opportunity/Columbia University: Request for Expression of Interest

Columbia University is seeking Expressions of Interest from non-profit mission-driven child care providers that may be interested in operating an early learning care center at 560 Riverside Drive. Based on the Expressions of Interest received, Columbia expects to identify one or more of the submitters for further discussions, culminating in the negotiation of an agreement to operate an early learning center at the site.

The space at 560 Riverside Drive that will be available has been licensed as a child care center to serve up to 45 children, ages 2-5 years old. The current center will close at the end of August, and Columbia will then renovate the facility. Columbia is seeking a provider that will offer a high-quality program in the updated facility to serve the child care needs of this diverse community that includes members of the Columbia community and surrounding neighborhoods, at affordable tuitions. The program should offer care Monday-Friday, from 8 AM to 6 PM, year-round.

The center has three spacious classrooms and administrative space as well as access to a large gymnasium and an outdoor play area adjacent to the center. There is a well-equipped kitchen, and the provider is asked to consider including breakfast and lunch as part of the program.

Columbia is requesting that the provider also consider, when appropriate, becoming a NYC Early Education Center to participate in the public pre-k programs (for 3- and 4-year-olds), as well as the city's child care voucher program.

Columbia will provide the facility rent-free to the program, including utilities and some building services. Columbia will consider adding the center as a Columbia-affiliate. The University provides some support to its affiliated centers for use in a variety of ways including financial aid, facilities maintenance, and programming. Columbia expects its affiliated programs to comply with all features of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and meet other criteria that we would gladly discuss with any interested party.

Columbia recognizes that child care and early education programs for young children are essential services for working parents and that children benefit from programs that offer a socioeconomic mix of children and staff, celebrate diversity, and build children's pride in their families and cultural heritage. To achieve these objectives, Columbia expects that a highly qualified, diverse staff will be recruited and retained, and that parents will be welcome observers and contributors to their child's program.

If your organization is interested in being considered to operate an early learning center at this location, please respond to this email by August 18, 2023, and provide the following information about your organization and plans to develop a financially viable, high-quality program to meet the needs of the community. Any such Expression of Interest would, of course, be non-binding.

- Briefly describe your organization's history, philosophy and approach to providing early childhood education/child care, including your curriculum and the specific principles that may guide it. Include the type of management of your organization (e.g., where applicable, women-owned, MBE, partnership). Please include:
 - Full name of organization.
 - How long the organization has been in existence.

- Corporate/tax status and Federal Tax identification number.
- Describe your plan for developing and operating this center. Have you had similar experience in developing other programs?
- Who from your staff would be the principal point of contact for discussion of your interest in this opportunity?

We are happy to begin conversations with any potentially interested party as soon as possible, ***even before submission of a formal Expression of Interest.*** If you have questions, want more detailed information about any aspect of the opportunity or would like to submit a response, please contact worklife@columbia.edu.

Sincerely,

Gerald Rosberg

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