

Purpose:

To continue serving Chilmark, Aquinnah, and other island families with affordable, high-quality early childhood education in a new, purpose-built early learning center on the Beetlebung Campus.

Need:

The Chilmark Preschool has operated a one-room preschool for children ages two years, nine months through five for the past 17 years. That classroom is now needed to serve the growing Chilmark School population.

Scope:

Design and construct a new, purpose-built early learning center (ELC) on the Beetlebung campus.

The 24x60' building would comprise two classrooms, two bathrooms, and a common area with kitchenette. The ELC would serve *up to* 32 preschoolers and could potentially include toddlers (18 mos to 2 years nine months) as well, depending on community needs. Priority enrollment would be offered to Up Island families, particularly Chilmark and Aquinnah families (including Chilmark School families and staff children). This space would also support CCC playschool use during its summer programming.

The permitting, design, and construction of the new ELC would be managed and funded by Friends of the Chilmark Preschool, a private non-profit entity, using funds raised from private philanthropic sources and ECE-focused grants.

At the conclusion of construction or at another appropriate time as agreed with the Town of Chilmark, The Friends of Chilmark Preschool would donate the building to the Town of Chilmark, which would enter into a long-term lease agreement with The Friends of the Chilmark Preschool (or other successful bidder) for use of the building for early childhood education. The Friends of the Chilmark Preschool would pay direct costs associated with preschool operations in the new building (salaries, furnishings, materials and supplies, cleaning) for the duration of the lease.