

Frequently Asked Questions

America's Promise Healthy Schools Fund

1. What does a healthy school look like?

A healthy school can look different in different communities, but we believe they often share similar characteristics. A healthy school is where students are safe, secure, and protected. It's a school that focuses on academics as well as social and emotional development and physical health so all students develop into well-rounded adults. It's where teachers support students and serve as positive role models. It's a welcoming place for parents and families to learn more about how they can help their kids succeed.

2. What is the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model? Where can I find more information?

The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model focuses its attention on the whole child, emphasizes a school-wide approach, and acknowledges learning, health, and the school as being a part and reflection of the local community. By focusing on youth, addressing critical education and health outcomes, organizing collaborative actions and initiatives that support students, and strongly engaging community resources, the WSCC approach offers important opportunities that may improve healthy development and educational attainment for students.

For more information, see the Center for Disease Control's [website](#).

3. How does the initiative define equity?

Every young person deserves a chance to succeed, no matter who they are, where they're from, or how much money their family makes. Schools can help kids overcome challenges and give them the skills they need to succeed in life. But schools need resources, and families and communities need to be involved so all students have a supportive network at school, home, and in between.

For more information on how the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation defines equity, [see here](#).

4. What is the application process?

Applications are due by 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22. Applications must be submitted using the online [Grant Application Portal](#).

America's Promise, core partners, and external reviewers will be reviewing the applications. Proposals are first reviewed for quality assurance to ensure they meet all required components of the application. They are subsequently rated and discussed based on the various components of the RFP and application materials.

Announcements of funding decisions will be made by mid-March 2018. America's Promise may reach out to finalists during the review process to pose clarifying questions.

5. Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

Applicants **MUST**:

- Be a public, private, or non-profit organization with an explicit mission to serve children, youth, and communities (e.g. community-based organization, foundation, government agency, school district, collective impact coalition);
- Be connected to multiple sectors (e.g. health, education, housing, economic development) and stakeholders across the community;
- Demonstrate evidence of prior collaboration with key stakeholders on health or education initiatives;
- Be active in one of the following states: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, or Washington;
- Have school district commitment as a partner to the initiative and evidence of a collaborative relationship with key district leaders/officials; If the applicant organization is a school district, it must have community partner commitment and evidence of a collaborative relationship with leaders in the community;
- Have commitment to health equity and to serving young people facing the greatest obstacles to thriving.

6. Why were these 20 priority states chosen?

The selection of these states is for the purpose of alignment across the Together for Healthy and Successful Schools Initiative. The process for selecting these states took several factors into account, including physical and social emotional health indicators, chronic absenteeism rates, and key disparities across geographic, racial/ethnic, and socioeconomic status.

7. What are the components of a strong application?

The strongest applications will describe an existing community-level effort looking to accelerate their work to create healthier school environments. The applicant should have a strong track record of positive change for young people in schools and/or their communities. Efforts should serve as a hub for cross-sector collaboration, youth and community engagement, and broader policy and systemic change.

The strongest applicants will have a high degree of alignment with the vision laid out in the [funding brochure](#) and a proven ability to accelerate change for young people. Reviewers will score applications based on how well applicant organizations demonstrate their resources and capabilities in the areas outlined and listed in the RFP.

8. Can this grant be used to expand a specific program or intervention?

No. This grant has a broader goal of understanding the conditions (systems, policies, partnerships, etc.) that help or hinder making healthy schools the norm. While we know that quality programs are essential, this initiative is focused on how you build the demand and public will to support a healthy schools movement. The grant is intended to help build on the work of an existing effort that seeks change in practice, policies, structures, and ultimately systems. We don't envision working with grantees trying to expand a current program, as is, to more schools.

9. Is it sufficient to work with one school as a partner on this work?

Unfortunately, it's not sufficient to just work with one school. A school district, or a cluster of schools within a district, is the unit of change for the work through this grant. We want to ensure we are able to work with grantees to assess and change the conditions and factors within a broader system that help or hinder efforts to make schools better places for all young people to be healthy, to learn, and to develop.

10. How often will I engage with America's Promise?

Grantees can expect to collaborate with America's Promise to share the progress, success, and challenges of implementing projects through ongoing program officer support and thought partnership, quarterly check-in calls, virtual and in-person learning opportunities, and site visits (including a kickoff meeting to be held in each community).

11. How often will grantees engage with the five core partners on the initiative (ChildObesity180, Communities In Schools, FoodCorps, the National Association of Community Health Centers, Turnaround for Children)?

Grantees can expect to learn and collaborate with core partners throughout the course of the grant through quarterly virtual and in-person learning sessions, ad hoc capacity-building and support, and ongoing thought partnership.

12. How many grantees are you looking for?

The America's Promise Healthy Schools Fund will support 3-5 grantees.

13. How long will the grant period last?

The grant period will last two years, starting in April 2018 and ending in April 2020.

14. What is America's Promise Alliance's ultimate goal for this work?

America's Promise has partnered with five leading organizations to work with communities to learn about successfully supporting health and well-being in schools. We are interested in exploring the following questions, which will guide our collective work:

- What factors help or hinder schools in creating healthier school environments?
- What levers can influence local, state, and federal school health policies?
- What are the most effective ways to build public and political will to promote students' health and well-being?

America's Promise will also leverage their expansive networks, communications assets, and convenings to build demand to make healthy schools the norm, and not the exception, in the United States.

15. Who can I contact for questions?

For questions not answered here, email HealthySchools@americaspromise.org