



**Action for Healthy Kids  
District Partnership Grant Request for Applications  
2022-2023 School Year**

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Thank you for your interest in Action for Healthy Kids District Partnership Grant Opportunity. Please carefully review the following information about the program and application process.

### Background

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is pleased to release its district partnership grant opportunities for the 2022-2023 school year. School district staff apply for support for district-level policy and professional development, as well as funding and professional development for schools within the district to support curricula/programs, best practices and policy implementation, and [family-school partnerships](#) to address [social-emotional health and risk behavior prevention \(ConnectEd\)](#), [food access and nutrition education \(NourishEd\)](#), and [physical activity and active play \(EnergizEd\)](#), and provide a learning environment where students are healthy in body and mind. All grants include monetary and in-kind support from AFHK.

AFHK views our district grantees, and the schools within them, as partners. These partnerships are designed to be long-term relationships that lead to lasting family-school partnerships, positive impacts on children's health in body and in mind, and sustainable, systemic enhancements across multiple program areas. AFHK will partner with districts for an initial four-year period to address three program areas ([ConnectEd](#), [NourishEd](#) and [EnergizEd](#)) based on the availability of continued funding from AFHK and the district's need for continued program support. Partnerships may extend beyond four years, as additional funding and need are determined. Awarded districts will be expected to formally commit to a partnership (via signed Memorandum of Understanding). Schools that are awarded grant funds as part of the school cohort are also expected to sign Terms and Conditions to agree to receive funds and support from AFHK. At the end of each school year, AFHK re-sign MOUs with partner districts and each school will be required to develop an action plan and budget for the following school year.

Schedule of funding and support over the course of four years:

- District receives a total of \$465,000 in cash grants and in-kind support over the four-year initial partnership period:
  - Year 1 – District receives a \$5,000 cash stipend and \$100,000 of in-kind support from AFHK

- Year 2 – District receives up to a \$20,000 cash grant to support a cohort of 10 schools in implementing ConnectEd, NourishEd and/or EnergizEd and \$100,000 of in-kind support from AFHK.
- Year 3 – District receives up to a \$20,000 cash grant to support the same cohort of 10 schools in implementing ConnectEd, NourishEd and/or EnergizEd and \$100,000 of in-kind support from AFHK.
- Year 4 – District receives up to a \$20,000 cash grant to support a cohort of 10 schools in implementing ConnectEd, NourishEd and/or EnergizEd and \$100,000 of in-kind support from AFHK.

Note: If your district has fewer than 10 schools, you may still be eligible for this Partnership Grant. However, the amount of grant funding will adjust accordingly.

### Program Areas

- **ConnectEd:** AFHK's *ConnectEd*: Social-emotional Health and Risk Behavior Prevention program combines age-appropriate CASEL-aligned social emotional learning and risk behavior prevention curriculum instruction with experiential learning through mindfulness awareness practices (PK-5) and/or restorative practices (6-12) to improve knowledge and application of social-emotional learning competencies (self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness and relationship skills). Districts awarded with funds will implement experiential learning and social-emotional learning and risk behavior prevention curriculum district-wide.
- **NourishEd:** AFHK's *NourishEd*: Food Access and Nutrition Education program increases the demand for healthy food among families, students and schools through nutrition education and promotion, as well as improve the supply of healthy food for kids in schools by increasing school meal program participation. Districts awarded with funds will start or enhance federal school meal programs and implement nutrition education district-wide.
- **EnergizEd:** AFHK's *EnergizEd*: Physical Activity and Active Play program builds the capacity of schools to implement physical activity opportunities during the school day (outside of physical education) to ensure children receive the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity daily. Districts awarded with funds will implement classroom physical activity, active/sensory hallways and/or active recess district-wide.

All program areas include technical assistance around policy enhancements at the district level, and professional development and support for family-school partnerships at the district and school levels.

### What are Family-School Partnerships?

[Family-School partnerships](#) bring together district leaders, school staff, and families to identify barriers to family engagement and specific child health needs, then work together to develop, implement, and evaluate effective and equitable solutions. When school staff, families, and community members work together to create healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments for their children, academic achievement and educational equity are improved immensely. Action for Healthy Kids functions with Family-School partnerships at the center of our work because we know that childhood healthy habits and lifestyles are driven by the adults and environments in which our children are raised. Developing family-school partnerships is the foundation of AFHK programming and a required component of the AFHK-district partnership.

In each partner district, AFHK will hire a Family Connector to support the development of effective family-school partnerships across the district, and to provide additional in-depth support for 3-5 schools

each year through learning sessions and ongoing coaching for parents/caregivers and school staff. Family Connectors are trusted parents/caregivers serving the communities where they live and trained to bring together parents/caregivers and school staff to develop effective and sustainable family-school partnerships that support kids' health. [Learn more about the Family Connector role.](#)

## District Eligibility

AFHK believes zip code should not determine a child's health or educational outcomes. Therefore, school districts in which there is demonstrated need and a lack of resources will receive priority for funding. AFHK utilizes an equity index to guide grant decision making, which includes metrics related to poverty, race, population density, student disabilities and per pupil expenditures, to acknowledge characteristics that may result in health and educational disparities.

School districts located in and around the following communities are eligible to apply for a District Partnership Grant: Chicago, IL | Jacksonville, FL | Palm Beach, FL.

If you have questions about your district's eligibility or likelihood of funding, contact your AFHK [State/Project Coordinator](#). If unsure who your designated State or Project Coordinator is, email us at [ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org](mailto:ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org).

## Partnership Deliverables

AFHK requires the following collaborative efforts as part of this grant funding. See the [Appendix](#) for a complete list of programmatic and reporting deliverables, including relevant deadlines.

### **Year 1 (22-23 School Year)**

**Summary:** In Year 1, AFHK works with district partners to assess and begin to improve district-level infrastructure and support for health and wellness, including policies, school health advisory councils, family-school partnerships, and cross-departmental collaboration in support of the whole child. Additionally, an AFHK Family Connector begins to work with 3-5 schools to improve collaboration around health and wellness between school staff and parents/caregivers.

- **General:**
  - Participate in monthly meetings with your designated AFHK [State/Project Coordinator](#).
- **District School Health Advisory Council:**
  - Develop, expand or maintain a District School Health Advisory Council of at least five (5) people.
- **Policy:**
  - Share health and wellness-related policies with AFHK for review and analysis.
  - Work with AFHK to develop an action plan to improve existing policies based on AFHK's review and analysis.
- **Schools**
  - Work to ensure at least 75% of schools in the district complete AFHK's School Health Index by October 31, 2022 to determine baseline alignment with policy and use of best practices. AFHK will provide school-level data to the district and an aggregate report summarizing the results.

- Identify a cohort of 10 schools to receive funding and support in Years 2-4 to become hubs for *ConnectEd*, *EnergizEd* and *NourishEd* by the end of the partnership (as measured by the School Health Index)
- **Family-School Partnerships:**
  - Of the 10 schools identified as the cohort for this project, identify 3+ schools that are ready to engage in family-school partnerships. Each partner district will receive a Family Connector, who will work with these schools during 22-23 to provide additional support through learning sessions and ongoing coaching for parents/caregivers and school staff.
- **Professional Learning:**
  - Promote required learning sessions to parents/caregivers, schools and districts. Learning sessions will cover topics such grant partnership expectations, District School Health Advisory Councils, family-school partnerships and Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child policy and best practices. There are 10 required learning sessions in Year 1 (5 for district-level staff, 3 for school staff and 2 for parents/caregivers). Most sessions will be available to complete on-demand in AFHK's Learning Management System.
- **ConnectEd Program Implementation**
  - Begin implementing AFHK's ConnectEd Curriculum package, starting with ConnectEd 365. ConnectEd 365 is a collection of activities and resources to support daily social-emotional learning practices. From mindful awareness and restorative practices to observances and celebrations, ConnectEd 365 provides easy-to-implement activities year-round.

## Years 2-4

**Summary:** In Years 2-4, AFHK works with district partners to continue building on the work that was started during Year 1. Family Connectors expand their work to additional schools that are part of the 10-school cohort. Schools that are part of the cohort receive funding and support each year of the partnership to improve upon School Health Index results year over year.

- Continue deliverables as outlined in Year 1
- Of the 10 schools identified as the cohort for this project, identify 3 additional schools that are ready to engage in family-school partnerships in Year 2. Family Connectors will continue working with the schools from Year 1 and expand support and coaching to 3 additional schools in Year 2. In Year 3, the Family Connector will expand this support to the remaining 4 schools in the cohort. In Year 4, the Family Connector provides ongoing support and coaching to all schools in the 10-school cohort.
- Implement Action for Healthy Kids' CASEL-aligned, evidence-based PK-12 *ConnectEd* curriculum package (currently in development) in schools district-wide to impact at least one of the following:
  - Increase in student self-awareness
  - Increase in student self-management
  - Increase in student social awareness
  - Increase in student relationship skills
  - Increase in student responsible decision making
- Initiate work with cohort of 10 schools to make progress toward becoming hubs for *ConnectEd*, *EnergizEd* and *NourishEd*. Partnering with AFHK, schools will use their School Health Index

results to identify opportunities to use funding and support to improve best practice implementation.

## Application Instructions

This is a district grant application, so only district-level staff can start and submit an application. Your designated AFHK [State/Project Coordinator](#) is available to help you navigate the application process. If unsure who your designated State or Project Coordinator is, email us at [ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org](mailto:ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org).

Paper applications will not be accepted. Districts should complete a grant application via AFHK's [District/School Portal](#).

## Summary of Key Dates

Date	Activity
May 15, 2022	District Partnership Grant applications due
June 3, 2022	Award notifications sent to districts (declined, awarded)
June 30, 2022	District Memorandum of Understanding due Districts submit wellness policies (and other relevant policies based on funded program) for review (if new to partnering with AFHK)
July – September 2022	Family Connectors recruited, hired and trained (one in each district). If support is needed, district supports AFHK in identifying potential Family Connector(s).
August – October 2022	Schools district-wide complete School Health Index.
August – December 2022	Districts identify cohort of 10 schools based on School Health Index results.
July 2022 – May 2023	Districts, schools and families participate in asynchronous and synchronous learning sessions and receive ongoing technical assistance from AFHK staff and Family Connectors.
Friday, May 26, 2023	District submits Final Report, including at least five (5) photos or videos.

## Contact Information

Your AFHK State or Project Coordinator is available to help you navigate the application process. [See this resource](#) for whom to contact based on your location. If unsure who your designated State or Project Coordinator is, email us at [ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org](mailto:ContactUs@ActionforHealthyKids.org).