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Governor

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State Health Commissioner

**To:** Public School Districts and Charter Schools

**From:** [Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity](#)

**Date:** Jan. 11, 2023

**Subject:** Call for Letters of Interest for the Indiana *Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child* (WSCC) Funding Opportunity

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) is writing a proposal for the competitive [School-Based Interventions to Promote Equity and Improve Health, Academic Achievement, and Well-Being of Students Grant](#) released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal of this five-year funding opportunity is to enhance the health and well-being of school-age children and adolescents through a focus on health equity. This aligns with the mission of IDOH to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers. The funding provided by this grant will be used by IDOH to expand partnerships, offer statewide technical assistance, and provide professional development to schools across Indiana, using the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model as a guide.

If awarded, IDOH would partner with one priority local education agency (LEA) in the state to provide funding and technical assistance in support of school wellness initiatives including, but not limited to, assessment and implementation of school health policies, programs, and services; maintenance of a school wellness council; and staff professional development. The selected priority LEA would receive up to \$100,000 per year for five years starting Oct. 1, 2023, and ending Sept. 30, 2028, with total student enrollment considered for the final award amount. The selected priority LEA would be required to designate one staff person with at least part of their time dedicated to facilitating and reporting on the grant activities. A portion of the award may be used to compensate this staff person, with the rest dedicated to wellness activities and programming listed in the [federal grant opportunity](#) (see "Activity 2D" on page 11).

This initiative will prioritize populations that are disproportionately affected by chronic disease and the risk factors that cause them. To be eligible to submit a letter of interest, **LEAs must have a total enrollment of at least 1,000 students and a free and reduced lunch rate of at least 60% for the 2022-23 school year.** *LEAs with a F/R lunch rate just below 60% will still be considered if evidence can be clearly displayed that their communities experience poverty, are*

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*medically underserved, and are disproportionately affected by chronic disease.* For multi-school districts, at least 75% of elementary, middle and high schools within the district will be required to participate in the assessment and grant activities. Schools within the selected priority LEA are also expected to participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the School Health Profiles Survey, if selected for survey collection during the period of performance.

**IDOH is seeking letters of interest (LOI) of two pages or fewer from public school corporations and charter schools demonstrating need and readiness, including:**

- Perception of the health status of the LEA's students in general, including any challenges faced within the community that negatively affects health and well-being (e.g., lack of food access, housing insecurity, transportation, insurance coverage, etc.).
- Recent wellness initiatives and any future wellness goals, including any initiatives to advance [health equity](#).
- Whether the LEA has a wellness council/committee, and if so, a brief description of the group's current level of activity/engagement.
- Whether the LEA has a district-level wellness coordinator with dedicated staff time. If not, please describe capacity to hire and/or appoint a dedicated wellness coordinator with at least partial staff time funded by this grant for the entire period of performance.
- Commitment to implement all activities (with the assistance of IDOH, DNPA) as listed under "Strategy 2" in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (see pages 10-11). This includes willingness to conduct in-depth school health assessments using CDC-specific school health assessments (e.g., [School Health Index](#), [Wellness Policy in Action Tool](#), [Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Standards 2.0 Tool](#)), receive professional development and technical assistance, and all other activities listed under "Activity 2D" specifically.

**LOIs must be signed by the LEA's superintendent and be submitted to Jenna Sperry ([jsperry@health.in.gov](mailto:jsperry@health.in.gov)) and Emma Smythe ([esmythe@health.in.gov](mailto:esmythe@health.in.gov)) by 5 p.m. EST on Jan. 25.** Priority LEA selection will be made by IDOH on or before Jan. 30.

**If selected to be the priority LEA, the LEA's superintendent must be prepared to submit a letter of commitment to IDOH by Feb. 3.** If awarded, IDOH expects to receive notice from the CDC in June 2023.

Jenna Sperry, Child Wellness Coordinator, [jsperry@health.in.gov](mailto:jsperry@health.in.gov)

Emma Smythe, Youth Physical Activity Coordinator, [esmythe@health.in.gov](mailto:esmythe@health.in.gov)