

Background and Need

The mission of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) is to optimize student health and learning by advancing the practice of school nursing. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact communities and schools, it is crucial that children, and specifically those in underserved communities, have equitable access to vaccines. However, lack of awareness, vaccine mistrust, and inaccessible vaccines continue to pose challenges. Recognizing the critical role that schools, school nurses, and community organizations play in driving health equity among children, NASN, with generous funding from Kaiser Permanente, is partnering with The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL). Together, these organizations will fund school nurses, school districts, and community organizations who are working to increase pediatric COVID-19 vaccine access and confidence among under-resourced populations. **This initiative will be funded in Kaiser Permanente's footprint: California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia only.** Through the *Champions for School Health* funding opportunity, NASN seeks to foster partnerships among schools, school nurses, and community organizations. NASN also wants to drive health equity by learning about and supporting the implementation of sustainable vaccination models to increase vaccine access and confidence.

Grant Amount and Duration

NASN is inviting school nurses, and organizations—schools and school districts, 501(c) community organizations and health centers, local health departments, and non-profit faith-based organizations—to apply for a range of \$5,000–\$10,000 implementation grants to fund programs or initiatives that would advance the following objectives in underserved communities:

1. Increasing pediatric COVID-19 vaccination rates among children aged 5–11
2. Increasing confidence in pediatric COVID-19 vaccines
3. Creating sustainable school-community partnerships that increase health equity

Funding is for Spring and Summer 2022 to support activities at the school district-level or in support of individual school sites. Activities must be completed by June 15, 2022 for Spring 2022 projects and by August 15, 2022 for Summer 2022 projects. All funds must be expended by the completion of the project and may not be used for non-grant related activities. Additional funding may be available for Fall 2022.

All applications and related documents (see required information for application below) must be submitted through NASN's Grant Portal by 5:00 p.m. ET on April 4, 2022 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. To facilitate rapid release of funding, applicants must be able to accept donations. Funds will be available and given in full within two weeks of the approval date via check or ACH.

Communicating Results and Celebrating Success

Sharing successes will support peer-learning among grantees and help NASN direct additional rounds of funding to grantees demonstrating success. NASN recognizes the demands on school nurses, school districts and community organizations and will provide standardized Word and/or Excel templates to streamline data collection and reporting. Additionally, grantees who are working to increase confidence in the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine will have access to an evidence-based tool for assessing changes in vaccine confidence on the application portal. Grantees will be required to:

- ▶ Join our online learning community to share in learning and offer support to others.
- ▶ Provide mid-program feedback via a virtual meeting that all grantees must attend.
- ▶ Share final outcomes and success stories with NASN via data templates that will be provided due no later than June 30, 2022 for Spring 2022 grants and no later than August 30, 2022 for Summer 2022 grants.

Selection Process and Examples of Possible Activities

NASN staff are available to support applicants in the development of this project. NASN will hold an **online Q&A session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. ET/2:00 p.m. MT/1:00 p.m. PT/10:00 a.m. (HI time)** for all interested applicants (Appointment to be provided via email as well as details for Application link). **Contact Deborah D'Souza Vazirani, *Champions for School Health* Project Manager, for assistance and for any application related questions at dvazirani@nasn.org.**

All activities must be directly associated with the *Champions for School Health* objectives of increasing vaccination rates and/or vaccine confidence in the pediatric population. It is highly recommended that activities address health equity. Health equity is defined as all members of society enjoying a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Programming should prioritize demographic populations most impacted by barriers to vaccine access, including Native American, Alaskan Native, Hispanic, Black, Pacific Islander, Migrant or Homeless.

Examples of activities related to increasing confidence in pediatric COVID-19 vaccines

- ▶ Social media campaigns addressing vaccine questions or concerns prevalent in your specific community
- ▶ Personal outreach and engagement activities with school families using trusted messengers
- ▶ Creating culturally competent vaccine education and messaging materials; translating messaging materials
- ▶ Engaging student and parent groups to share personal stories about choosing vaccination

Examples of activities related to increasing vaccine uptake for students aged 5–11 years

- ▶ Partnering with schools and federally qualified health centers or community health centers to implement school-located vaccination clinics or vaccination clinics in other community settings
- ▶ Creating resources to promote and raise awareness of upcoming vaccination events/access points
- ▶ Providing incentives (grocery store gift cards, groceries, transportation tokens, etc.) to increase vaccine uptake

All applications will be reviewed by experts in the field of school nursing and community schools¹. Reviewers will consider the extent to which proposed activities are aligned with factors that influence pediatric COVID-19 vaccine uptake and confidence: access, affordability, awareness, acceptance, and activation. Reviewers are also looking for **innovative activities and solutions** that will lead to vaccine uptake and increase in vaccine confidence.

The following considerations are also recommended:

1. Promote equity and prioritize schools and/or school districts with at least 50 percent Free and Reduced Meal rate and underserved communities
2. Foster school and community system integration
3. Leverage school nurse leadership and participation in school-based vaccination efforts and/or outreach and engagement activities
4. Recognize the different roles that stakeholders may play in project implementation (partners or gatekeepers)
5. Incorporate student, family, and caregiver engagement activities
6. Promote and sustain healthy school environments and communities beyond the grant period
7. Generate knowledge and promote learning by partners
8. Are culturally competent and community-oriented in design

Funds may not be used to purchase technology, COVID-19 tests, personal protective equipment (PPE), or implement vaccination clinics that serve only children aged 12–17 or only adults.

¹ Community schooling is an education model that fosters engagement between public schools and their broader community to support student learning and achievement.

APPLICATION

Organization Background

1. What type of organization are you? (Select all that apply)
 - ☐ School or school district
 - ☐ 501(c)3 nonprofit
 - ☐ Government organization (i.e., county/district/state health department)
 - ☐ Faith-based organization (non-profit or schools only)
2. Provide your organization's name, and federal tax ID, W-9 (upload W-9 as a PDF)
3. Enter the counties, and zip code(s) where the project will operate
4. Please check the project state (select all that apply):
 - ☐ California
 - ☐ Colorado
 - ☐ Georgia
 - ☐ Hawaii
 - ☐ Maryland
 - ☐ Oregon
 - ☐ Virginia
 - ☐ Washington
 - ☐ District of Columbia
5. Provide a link to your organization's website
6. Describe the community you serve and how your organization directly interacts with families and members of your community. (Limit 250 words)
7. Name, title, email and phone number of person leading the project
8. Are you a school nurse? Y/N

Previous Experience/Resources (Limit 250 words total for Q9–Q11)

9. Describe your experience increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake/access and/or vaccine confidence in your community?
10. What metrics have you used to measure success?
11. Describe the existing resources your organization can apply to administering vaccines, vaccine education, and community engagement activities (e.g., existing staff, staff's knowledge/skills, community partnerships, proximity to medical systems or health departments, etc.).

Proposed Project

12. Title of project
13. Brief description of the project (3–4 sentences)
14. What will be the focus of your project?
 - ☐ Impacting vaccine confidence
 - ☐ Impacting vaccine uptake/access
 - ☐ Impacting both
15. Identify 1–3 activities and how you will measure success for each activity. Please be specific (e.g., number of vaccines administered to children aged 5–11 years old during clinic events; number of education events held for vaccine confidence) (Limit 250 words)
16. How will your project consider the unique needs of your community? (Limit 250 words)
17. Describe the partners and stakeholders you will engage and what role you expect them to play in the project. Please be specific. (e.g., local health department to procure vaccines and provide clinical staff for vaccine events, school nurses to host vaccine education forums, etc. (Limit 250 words)
18. Description of resources (including FTE, materials, etc.) to be purchased with the funds and estimated cost of each. Detailed budget not required. (Limit 250 words)
19. What steps will your project take to sustain these activities and partnerships after the funding period? (Limit 250 words)