

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 vaccine access, confidence, and uptake specifically for the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine and school-required vaccines 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.

Application Instructions, Grant Amount and Duration (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY)

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 the second round of *Champions for School Health* implementation grants in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000, to fund programs or initiatives that would advance the following objectives in underserved communities:

- ▶ Increasing pediatric COVID-19 vaccination rates as well as school-required vaccination rates (including influenza vaccinations) among children aged 5–12
- ▶ Increasing confidence in pediatric COVID-19 vaccines and school-required vaccines
- ▶ Creating sustainable school-community partnerships that increase health equity

Funding is for Fall 2022 (August 2022- December 2022) to support activities at the school district-level or in support of individual school sites. Funded projects can start anytime, after August 1, 2022. All funded project activities must be completed by December 15, 2022. All funds must be expended by the completion of the project and may not be used for non-grant related activities. An organization or school district can submit up to 5 applications if the project will be in different states or different schools. Applicants may request grant funding in the \$10,000-\$30,000 range.

The grant application portal opens July 29, 2022. All applications and related documents (see required information for application below) must be submitted through NASN's Grant Portal no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on September 30, 2022. The application portal and instructions to create an account to access the portal (if you are a previous Champions for School Health Grantee you do not need a new

account) can be found at [Champions for School Health - National Association of School Nurses \(nasn.org\)](https://nasn.org). Applications will be reviewed as they are received and NASN staff are available to support applicants (see selection process section below). Applicants do not have to wait until September 30, 2022, to submit their application; we encourage early applications.

To facilitate rapid release of funding, applicants must be able to accept the grant award as a donation. Grantees will be notified via email of application approval with a Letter of Attestation requiring grantee organization signature. The letter will detail the award amount and project obligations. Once the signed letter is received, the grant award will be released via check. **Contact Deborah D'Souza Vazirani, Champions for School Health Project Manager, for assistance and for any application related questions at dvazirani@nasn.org.**

Communicating Results and Celebrating Success

Sharing successes will support peer-learning among grantees and help NASN showcase the role of school nurses as well as partnerships developed through these projects. NASN recognizes the demands on school nurses, school districts and community organizations and will provide standardized Word and Excel templates to streamline data collection and reporting. Additionally, grantees who are working to increase vaccine confidence will have access to an evidence-based tool for assessing changes in vaccine confidence on the application portal. All grantees will also have access to a Vaccine Confidence Toolkit that NASN will be rolling out in September 2022. Grantees are 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.
- ▶ Provide mid-project data reporting
- ▶ Share final outcomes and success stories with NASN via data templates that will be provided. Full project reporting will be due not later than December 31, 2022.
- ▶ To be eligible for funding, community organizations must include collaborating with a school nurse/school nurses as part of their project.

Selection Process and Examples of Possible Activities

NASN staff are available to support applicants in the development of this project. NASN also has a link to a webinar recording detailing how to set up an account in NASN (for new applicants) and explaining the grant application, posted on NASN's *Champions for School Health* webpage at [Champions for School Health - National Association of School Nurses \(nasn.org\)](https://nasn.org) for all interested applicants. Additionally, a FAQ page with examples of projects, and tips from past grantees for planning activities and using award money is also available on the *Champions for School Health* webpage. All grantees will have access to translated materials and other resources posted in the online community library courtesy of the Spring/Summer 2022 project grantees.

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 and focus on underserved and under-resourced populations. 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 and other pediatric 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
- ▶ Offering vaccination clinics for catch-up school-required vaccines, influenza vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines for families
- ▶ Conducting health fairs that provide uninsured and underinsured families with opportunities to enroll in public health care insurance while providing opportunities for their children to receive any needed vaccinations
- ▶ 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 public health. Reviewers will consider the extent to which proposed activities are aligned with factors that influence pediatric 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 6 months – 4, 12–17 or only adults or for indirect costs.**

Please read the application instructions above carefully before completing and submitting your application

APPLICATION

Organization Background

1.1. 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)

1.2 If you are a school, is your school designated as a community school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

1.3 Provide your organization's name as it appears on your W-9.

1.4 Upload your organization's W-9 as a PDF.

1.5 Provide a link to your organization's website.

1.6 Please include the mailing address with name of individual authorized to receive the award check.

1.7 Enter the counties and zip code(s) where the project will operate

1.8 Please check the project state (select all that apply):

- ☐ California
- ☐ Colorado
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☐ Maryland
- ☐ Oregon
- ☐ Virginia
- ☐ Washington
- ☐ District of Columbia

1.9 Describe the community you serve and how your organization directly interacts with families and members of your community. (Limit 250 words)

1.10 Name, title, email address and phone number of person completing this application

1.11 Name, title, email address and phone number of person leading the project

1.12 Is a school nurse leading or collaborating on this project?

- Leading
- Collaborating
- No SN involvement

Previous Experience/Resources (Limit 250 words)

- 2 Describe your experience increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake/access and/or vaccine confidence in your community? What metrics have you used to measure success? 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

3.1 Title of project

3.2 Brief description of the project (3–4 sentences)

3.3 What will be the focus of your project?

- ☐ Impacting vaccine confidence
- ☐ Impacting vaccine uptake/access
- ☐ Impacting both

3.4 If your project relates to impacting vaccine confidence, identify 1–3 activities and how you will measure success for each activity. Please be specific on how you will quantify each measure. (e.g., number of education events held for vaccine confidence) (Limit 250 words)

3.5 If your project relates to impacting vaccine uptake and access, 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) (Limit 250 words)

3.6 If your school is a designated community school, describe how you would leverage the community school network for these activities. (Enter N/A if not a community school or unsure) (Limit 250 words)

3.7 What are the unique needs of your community? How will your project consider these unique needs? (Limit 250 words)

3.8 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)

3.9 If you are not a school nurse, describe how you will collaborate with a school nurse or school nurses during this project including specific information about school districts/schools and school nurses. (Limit 250 words)

3.10 Please enter the amount you are requesting (\$10,000 – \$30,000 range) and provide a general budget for the amount requested. (e.g., description of resources (including FTE, materials, etc.) to be purchased with the funds and estimated cost of each; no indirect costs allowed)

3.11 What steps will your project take to sustain these activities and partnerships after the funding period? (Limit 250 words)