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BACKGROUND

The Alberta Healthy School Community Wellness Fund was established by Alberta Health and Wellness in partnership with the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities and the University of Alberta, School of Public Health in 2007 to support school communities in using a comprehensive school health approach to promote wellness. If your school community is looking to develop capacity in supporting healthy eating, active living and/or promoting a positive social environment this may be the opportunity for you!

GRANTS TO DATE:

Two categories:

Category A: Larger Grants

- Potential for multi-year funding installments
- Grants over \$10,000 up to \$50,000
- As of March 2009, 24 projects have been funded in this category
- *Next Deadline May 15, 2009*

Category B: Smaller Grants

- Single year funding cycle
- Grants up to \$10,000
- As of March 2009, 29 projects have been funded in this category
- No deadlines scheduled at this time

As of March 2009 total dollars granted in Category A:
\$1,261,100.00

As of March 2009 total dollars granted in Category B:
\$271,850.00

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

- Collaboration and multi-sectoral involvement
- Address Healthy Eating, Active Living and Positive Social Environments
- Engage, educate and support a wide range of community stakeholders in diverse and varied ways
- Build and strengthen capacity for sustainability
- Improve coordination, focus efforts or fill gaps in service delivery
- Share project results

If your school community is planning to submit a Grant application it is recommended that you first speak with a Wellness Fund Coordinator as supports are available to help projects develop their proposals. Successful projects will receive support and guidance for the duration of their project.

Application forms are available on the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities website: www.achsc.org

Successful Large Grant Projects

All Large Grant projects are built upon the Comprehensive School Health pillars of Teaching and Learning, Services and Supports, Healthy School Policy and Environment. Each project addresses Healthy Eating, Active Living and Positive Social Environments. Of the 24 projects funded to date common strategies and approaches include:

- District wide initiatives or collections of school communities collaborating on a project
- Development of Lead Teacher networks to support Wellness
- Development of nutrition policies or policies to support DPA
- Conducting needs assessments to determine priorities and needs of a school community
- Student, staff and parent leadership initiatives
- Professional Development opportunities for teachers and staff
- Developing collaborative partnership with Health Region, Local Town, Be Fit for Life Centre, Boys and Girls Clubs, AADAC etc. For example partner provides in-kind sponsorship, professional expertise or program.
- Creation of supportive timetabling to help integrate Wellness into curricular areas
- Enhancing Cross Curricular connections
- Developing strategies to mobilize volunteers
- Fostering parental involvement/offering learning opportunities to link to the home
- Hiring a Project Coordinator or staff to implement initiative
- Allocating fund toward teacher release time for PD or planning
- Providing seed funding to school communities to carry out their own wellness project
- Purchasing programs/resources
- Purchase supportive equipment

Successful Small Grant Projects

All Small Grant projects are built upon the Comprehensive School Health pillars of Teaching and Learning, Services and Supports, Healthy School Policy and Environment. Each project addresses **two** of the following; Healthy Eating, Active Living and Positive Social Environments. Of the 29 projects funded to date common strategies and approaches include:

- Projects are usually hosted by one school community
- Development of local nutrition policies or strategies to implement DPA
- Purchasing of equipment to support DPA or nutrition initiatives; for example, creation of DPA kits or purchasing kitchen equipment
- Purchasing and implementation of resources and programs
- Professional Development opportunities for staff
- Creation of community gardens where foods are utilized in school snack and lunch programs. Gardens are also often used as an outdoor classroom
- Student, staff and parent leadership initiatives
- Developing collaborative partnership with Health Region, Local Town, Be Fit for Life Centre, Boys and Girls Clubs, AADAC etc. For example partner provides in-kind sponsorship, professional expertise or program.
- Developing or enhancing extra curricular initiatives/intramurals
- Development or creation of wellness related activities or events at school for example theme days, activity challenges
- Enhancing parental engagement
- Developing strategies to mobilize volunteers