



School Based Health Center Food Access Champion Network Request for Applications 2021-2022

Issue Date: August 23, 2021
Applications Due: September 22, 2021
Award Date: October 1, 2021

Introduction

Who We Are

Share Our Strength is a leading national organization dedicated to ending childhood hunger in the United States and has organized its efforts to do so into two national campaigns, No Kid Hungry (NKH) and Cooking Matters (CM). By ensuring that kids have access to critical federal nutrition programs, the NKH campaign surrounds children with healthy food where they live, learn and play. Since its launch in 2010, the NKH campaign has worked to expand access to federal nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program and out of school-time programs. Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters campaign is helping end childhood hunger by engaging parents and caregivers of children 0-5 in evidence-based nutrition and food skills education that supports making healthy, affordable food choices.

Background

Like education, health care is a ubiquitous system that touches nearly all families, and as such, it presents a compelling opportunity to connect more kids and families to the healthy food they need. No Kid Hungry has worked with schools for years – primarily related to school feeding programs and other adjacent food security programs – providing a strong foundation of knowledge and relationships for this next stage of work, which aims to support kids and families by supporting the integration of food assistance and access into Medicaid care models and health systems.

School-based health centers (SBHCs) are a trusted resource and conduit to varied health efforts and outcomes – from primary care to mental health, oral health, and more. By embracing and building on this trust in SBHCs, No Kid Hungry believes we can engage in meaningful work to promote federal nutrition programs and nutritious food consumption in support of positive health outcomes. We see incredible opportunity for engagement and impact in the school-based health care space and are eager to **support the work of these centers for the primary purpose of ending childhood hunger and improving dietary health outcomes by integrating food access and preventative care.**



Request for Applications

What is No Kid Hungry's School-Based Health Center 'Food Access Champion' Network?

Leaning into community-driven knowledge and solutions, we will support the development of Food Access Champion learning networks of five to seven SBHC leaders in each selected state. Membership in the network is by application (link below) and selected members will receive a **participation honorarium of \$1500** for the academic year (October –May), in recognition of the time and effort required to build effective and sustainable programming. Network members convene for monthly 1.5 hour calls and biannual learning sessions. This facilitated, peer-to-peer learning approach can be highly effective for organizations that are going through similar experiences, and it will serve as a venue to learn, share, and work together to improve the coordination, quality, and integration of clinical care with food assistance and access. In addition to discussing successes and barriers and sharing key themes from data, network members will have access to subject matter expertise and training on topics prioritized by the group. Training topics could include: promising practices for integrating food insecurity screening in well child visits, federal nutrition assistance programs, evidence-based nutrition and food skills education, and innovative food access delivery approaches.

Other Program Components

- ✓ **Each participating SBHC (represented by the Food Access Champion) will receive an implementation grant (~\$25,000)** to implement or to improve a locally-designed food access and assistance model, serving households whose children experience low income, that can be integrated into preventative care. Needs assessment and community input should inform the model design. NKH and the Network will continue to support and coach toward the successful implementation of these projects.
- ✓ Selective grants to community organizations to support strong local food systems, as recommended by the Food Access Champion Network.
- ✓ Evaluation will be a key component of this implementation work, and should include measures of increased food security, increased fruit and vegetable consumption, and/or knowledge and skill to select and prepare healthy food. Additional encouraged measures are those that capture changes in childhood overweight or BMI and HbA1c levels, as well as straightforward outputs such as number of children and households reached, and number of community engagements in the program (i.e. PTA, youth, food pantries, etc.).
- ✓ Willingness to have participant programming be part of case studies for an 'Integration Toolkit.' This toolkit will be integral to building a proof of concept as we work towards a vision



where health care payers and states invest in and support sustainability of local models. We will also look to inviting cohort members to participate in state and national convenings in an effort to raise visibility of effective local models.

Participation Criteria:

- ✓ You are a provider or a lead administrator employed by a school-based health center interested in developing and implementing strategies to address healthy food access as part of your center's preventative services.
- ✓ Participate in monthly calls and biannual learning sessions (October-May)
- ✓ Complete a project proposal including a short narrative with project goals, objectives, intended outcomes, timeline, and sustainability plan, as well as a budget for up to \$25,000. Projects must include ways to help students and their households benefit from nutrition assistance programs and healthy food access.
- ✓ Evaluate your project and share your learnings with the network
- ✓ Allow your program to be considered for a case study in a national integration toolkit
- ✓ Interest in serving as a local advisor for other centers in your state interested in integrating food access into preventative services

Application Deadline is September 22, 2021.

For questions, contact Sarah Mills, Manager Health Strategies (smills@strength.org)

How to Apply:

Please navigate to this [online form](#) to complete and submit the short application. Application responses must be received through this online form by COB on September 22, 2021 in order to be considered. Online survey form questions are included below for your consideration.

- Food Access Champion (SBHC Lead staff) Name & contact Information
- Center Director or Administrator contact information (If different than above)
- Information about your Center (including # of students served, student/community demographics, community description, # Medicaid enrollees served, types of preventative services offered, annual budget and current funding sources)
- Describe your interest in helping to address food insecurity and access to healthy food for the children and community served by your center:
- How would you describe the needs for access to healthy food and nutrition education for students and their households in your community?
- Describe any current efforts to address food insecurity and access to healthy food by your center. Please also share any future plans you have that you hope to implement:



- What would you like to learn or achieve by being part of the SBHC Food Access Champions Network?
- What would you contribute to a learning network, such as the SBHC Food Access Champion Network?