

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Proposals: School-Community Partnerships – A Blueprint to Equitable Youth & Family Food Security

Eligibility & Partnership Questions

1. Could a project where multiple CBOs partner with one district be eligible?

Yes! \$500k would remain the limit for the total project budget, however it would be acceptable to split that up between more than one CBO and the district. More than one school district and a BIPOC-led CBO could similarly apply. Please clearly indicate who the partners will be, and the total budget each will be applying for in the application.

2. Can a CBO and a school apply (instead of a district)?

No, we are requiring district-level staff to apply, to assure administrative buy-in and systems-level coordination within the district between Child Nutrition Services, Community/Family Engagement, and any other applicable departments. It is acceptable for the project to focus on specific high need school sites a way of piloting the partnership or meeting the most pressing needs within the district footprint.

3. Our CBO is interested in submitting a proposal but we are unsure if we are eligible based on the requirement of our leadership team and board to be made up of at least 50% BIPOC. Is this a strict requirement or is there some space for flexibility within it?

Everyone is welcome to apply. Applications meeting the BIPOC BOD and leadership criteria will score higher than those that do not. To strengthen your application, applicants in this position might consider bringing in a BIPOC-led CBO or a BIPOC food access consultant as a third partner on the project. (See #1 above about multiple partners).

4. Can the district be the sole applicant, or does it require co-design with a BIPOC-led CBO?

Co-designed projects will be prioritized ... one of our scoring criteria is that the project “Is developed in partnership with BIPOC-led CBO & School District.” There could be a variation of ways funding is allocated. (See Budget Question #1- Example B)

5. We are a BIPOC-led CBO who serves one specific ethnic/racial demographic. The struggle we have in partnering with school districts is that our population is so small relative to their student bodies that we do not present as competitive in number of students were able to serve. Do you have any ideas for us?

Applicants in this position might consider several ideas:

- A district partnership with several ethnic-based community organizations to meet the needs of varying populations within the district footprint
- Focusing the project on several high-need schools within a district footprint (i.e. perhaps where there are the highest concentration of youth from this ethnic/racial demographic)
- Partnering with several school districts to better reach the racial/ethnic population in your service area

6. Could we apply for projects with a geographic scope that extend beyond KP’s core counties?

Applicants must have services located within KP Washington’s core geographic service area of King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, or Thurston County. We would consider projects that are regional if they include at least one of our core counties. Please consult with Haley (haley.x.ballenger@kp.org) if you are exploring this type of application.

Budget Questions

1. What are some examples of an equitable budget split between partners?

Example A	Example B	Example C
To account for the community organizing expertise and time the BIPOC-led CBO will bring to the project, CBO partner dedicates 1.0 FTE for their project lead; and the District dedicates .5 FTE for their project lead.	District has existing subcontract(s) with BIPOC-led CBO(s) and opts to embed a community member who identifies as BIPOC as a 1.0 District FTE to oversee the project and manage existing community food partnerships.	For CBOs and Districts who have hired staff already working in these areas, .5 FTE is allocated to each partner.
CBO is allocated >50% total project budget for staffing and operating expenses.	District is allocated >50% total project budget for staffing; and CBO partner(s) are allocated funds to cover operating costs needed to partner with District – this could be a subcontracted item if preferable for both partners.	Partners have a 50%/50% budget split to cover staffing, operating costs, and equipment needed. The District partner is eligible for OSPI Child Nutrition equipment grants where the CBOs is not, and therefore the CBO receives extra project funding for equipment needs.

Project Questions

1. Does the project have to be focused district-wide, or can it focus on specific school sites?

We are requiring district-level staff to apply, to assure administrative buy-in and systems-level coordination within the district between Child Nutrition Services, Community/Family Engagement, and any other applicable departments. It is acceptable for the project to focus on specific high need school sites a way of piloting the partnership or meeting the most pressing needs within the district footprint.

- This likely makes sense for tier 2 projects in the blueprint pyramid (community-based food distribution)
- Projects serving school sites with 50% and higher Free and Reduced Lunch rates and/or 50% and higher student of color population will be prioritized

2. Does our project have to encompass all three tiers of the blueprint pyramid?

No, projects must focus on: 1) Foundational practices (gray box) improving to “mostly” or “fully” in place by end of grant term; and 2) implementing at least one tiered intervention (colored layers in the blueprint pyramid). There are 7 months of planning time as phase 1 of the grant term, and the tier of focus does not need to be solidified until that time.

3. Are the scoring criteria requirements?

No. The eligibility criteria (section IV) are requirements to apply. Applications that meet any or all of the scoring criteria (section VII) will score most highly and will be prioritized when selecting awardees.

General Questions

1. Where can we look to determine district low-income/free & reduced lunch rates and BIPOC student percentages?

The [Washington State Report Card](#) has information on every district and school site. Upon selecting a district or school site, select “Enrollment” > see Race/Ethnicity breakdown and Low-Income breakdown.

2. Will there be an information session?

- We hosted a virtual session in June: [access recording here](#)

- KP is hosting weekly office hours Aug 15 – Sept 9 to answer any questions: [register here](#)

3. Can I get support developing my application?

- *Proposal Technical Assistance:* Alliance for a Healthier Generation staff are available to support you in the development of this project. Contact Tara Witten, Healthy Schools Program Manager (tara.witten@healthiergeneration.org) to set up a 1:1 consultation.
- *School Meal Program Consultation:* United Way of King County is available to consult on increasing the impact of FNS Nutrition Programs, especially through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs, Breakfast After the Bell, and the Community Eligibility Provision. Contact Madeleine Vistica (mvistica@uwkc.org) to schedule an initial conversation.
- *Identifying CBOs in your District Service Area:* To learn about community partners in your District service area who provide Afterschool and Summer Meals, and other hunger relief, reach out to Madeleine Vistica (mvistica@uwkc.org) at United Way of King County.
- *Washington State Dept. of Agriculture's (WSDA) Farm to School Program:* check out the [Washington State Farm to School Network online directory](#) to discover participating districts and community suppliers; the [WSDA Farm to School Toolkit](#) with versions for districts and farmers; and the [2022-23 Schoolyear Purchasing Grant opportunity](#). Contact farmtoschool@agr.wa.gov for more information.

4. What types of technical assistance will be available during the grant term?

Kaiser Permanente and our partners will be providing technical assistance throughout the grant term to set the projects up for success, including:

- Thriving Schools Integrated Assessment tool and tailored coaching from Alliance for a Healthier Generation to develop evidence-based action plans
- Kaiser Permanente measurement & evaluation consultation
- Community of practice learning topics that meet cohort training needs
- Consultation as desired with United Way of King County to support implementation of evidence-based meal programs (both in schools and in community during summer and afterschool)
- Capacity-building and sustainability planning coaching