



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 20, 2021

Elizabeth Whalen, MD, MPH
Albany Co. Dept of Health
175 Green St.
Albany, NY 12202

Dear Elizabeth Whalen, MD, MPH:

We are pleased to inform you that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has allocated Albany Co. Dept of Health with \$6,611,672 to enable schools/districts in your county to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning (including public, private, BOCES, and charter schools as applicable). The funding amount allocated to your county is based on the share of the state's students who live in your county, as well as the share of the state's students who live in poverty in your county.

Please email schoolquestionsCOVID@health.ny.gov with your response to this letter by June 3, 2021 with "ELC Award Response" in the subject line; please complete the attached form and include it in your email. NYSDOH will hold a conference call on May 26, 2021 to answer questions. **Following receipt of your county's interest in this funding, we will contact you to develop a workplan and budget, resulting in a contract funded through Health Research, Inc. If you do not respond by the due date, you will not be eligible for your allocation.**

This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$30 billion nationally with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. Further guidance can be viewed at the following link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf>.

The scope of services you will be responsible for providing as a condition of accepting this funding include, as applicable:

1. Rapidly conducting a needs assessment (meetings, focus groups, surveys, etc.) in your local community to determine, at a minimum:
 - a. School testing currently occurring (entity providing the testing, number of tests conducted, etc.)
 - b. Schools or districts who need additional assistance

- c. Types of assistance needed (supplies, personnel, regulatory assistance, personal protective equipment (PPE), case investigation, community education, etc.)
2. Rapidly prioritizing needs identified based on available resources
3. Rapidly developing a local school screening testing implementation plan, for implementation no later than 9/1/2021
4. Facilitate access to needed resources identified in the needs assessment
5. Collaborate with adjacent counties where school districts span boundaries
6. Serve as a technical assistance resource to local schools
7. Extend county limited service laboratory (LSL) certificate to schools who need it, or facilitate relationships with outside contractors to perform testing
8. Submit all workplans, budgets, and period reports in a timely manner on a schedule established by NYSDOH
9. Notify the local community of school testing resources and information made available by NYSDOH and/or federal partners
10. Other services based on emerging needs or trends as identified by your community or NYSDOH

Consistent with CDC guidance, all funded expenses are required, by law, to support school-based screening testing activities intended to reopen schools. Allowable costs include but are not limited to personnel, laboratory equipment, collection supplies/kits/reagents/consumables/etc., PPE, courier services, computer hardware and software, contracts with various entities to provide all or part of screening services, program incentives, wraparound services, outreach, technical assistance, and more. Full guidance for this funding may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-elc-reopening-schools-508.pdf>.

NYSDOH will play a coordinating role in this project. We are responsible for:

1. Continued development of public health policies to promote in-person learning and reduce school-based transmission
2. Maintenance of public-facing dashboard with COVID-19 related school data
3. Provision of school guidance, recommendations, and technical assistance consistent with CDC guidance
4. Development of 'train the trainer' materials for NYS School-Based Health Centers and school medical professionals
5. Development of a COVID-19 school-based testing toolkit to aid in decision making regarding testing operations and school attendance based on exposure to a COVID-19 case and community transmission levels
6. Adaptable resources for schools to use including but not limited to a standardized parental consent template, a screening testing FAQ, a readiness checklist, demonstration videos, and informational materials
7. Ongoing training and technical assistance

8. Providing COVID-19 school-based testing guidance and recommendations for testing methodologies in the K-12 school setting
9. Development of an educational campaign that can be deployed in schools

We are excited to establish this partnership and look forward to working with you to continue to ensure the safe operations of our state's schools. If you have any questions, please email SchoolQuestionsCOVID@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis O'Donnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Travis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "O'Donnell".

Travis T. O'Donnell
Associate Deputy Director
AIDS Institute

cc: Loretta A. Santilli, MPH
Johanne E. Morne, MS
Theresa Egan
Danielle Greene, DrPH

County ELC School Funding Commitment Form

If this form is not received by June 3, 2021, your county will not be eligible for the allocation.

Albany Co. Dept of Health
\$6,611,672*

* Please note that NYSDOH may be able to offer your LHD options to support hiring personnel to conduct the necessary programmatic activities. For example, you may be able to re-direct a portion of your allocated funding to go towards leveraging a staffing contract managed by NYSDOH/HRI, Inc.

Select 1.

_____ I am not interested in this allocation.

_____ I may be interested in this allocation but have questions. Please contact me.

_____ I am interested in this allocation and agree to perform the scope of services described in the letter. NYSDOH will contact counties who are interested in receiving this funding to develop a workplan and budget, resulting in a contract funded through Health Research, Inc.

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Please list the name, phone number, and email address for the main point of contact for this funding:

