



Clean Air School Challenge Mini-Grant Guidelines

The American Lung Association was awarded a 5-year grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement # 84098901 (CFDA 66.034). Through its Clean Air School Challenge program, the Lung Association will provide mini-grants to support schools in developing or implementing comprehensive Energy Efficient Indoor Air Quality Management Plans. Mini-grants will be awarded to approximately 800 schools nationwide between July 2025 and December 2028.

Please read these guidelines before applying. Contact CASC@Lung.org if you have questions about the application process, funding levels or eligible activities.

The Clean Air School Challenge (CASC) offers three levels of mini-grants for individual schools:

1. **Assess** (up to \$2,500)
2. **Plan** (up to \$3,000)
3. **Act** (up to \$4,000)

Schools may receive funding from more than one level, but only one level may be applied for at a time. Schools must meet the requirements laid out in the previous level(s) before they apply for the next one. A separate application is required for **each** level.

What mini-grant funding supports

Mini-grant funding supports schools in carrying out activities aligned with each funding level (Assess, Plan, Act). See pages 3-5 for more detail about each level. All grant-supported work must occur within the designated mini-grant period as laid out in each *Timeline* section below. Activities completed prior to the application submission date do not qualify.

Who may apply

Any school leadership staff (Principal, Vice-Principal, Facility/Operations Director, etc.) or staff they designate (Grants or Administrative Coordinator, School Health Staff, etc.) can submit a mini-grant application for an individual school. Staff should notify district leadership prior to submitting an application. District level staff may submit one application for multiple schools. See *Multiple School Application* section on page 2 for more details.

Applicant eligibility

Only K-12 public or charter schools and some tribal schools are eligible for CASC mini-grant funds. Any school applying must first be signed up in CASC. Schools can sign up at CASCPortal.org. Though not required to receive funding, priority will be given to schools with Title 1 designation and/or in tribal and/or rural communities. As of October 1, 2026, schools that are a part of a district who are participating or have participated in the EPA-funded Healthy and Efficient School Environments Go Green Initiative Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Cohort are ineligible for mini-grant funding, but may still participate in other CASC activities and access resources.

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Mini-grant distribution

If awarded, a school must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Partner Agreement and provide the Lung Association with a current and complete W-9 within 30 days of being notified of an award. For all mini-grant levels, \$500 per school will be remitted when MOU or Partner Agreement is fully executed and a current, completed W-9 form is received. The remaining funds will be distributed after the respective mini-grant level's activities are completed and documentation or final report is shared with and approved by CASC staff.

Multiple School Application

The standard CASC mini-grant application is for one school. To streamline the process for those applying on behalf of more than one school at a time, a Multi-School Application may be completed for up to 20 schools in the same district.

A Multi-School Application is a valid option only if the following requirements are met:

- **Same funding level:** all schools included in the application are applying for the same mini-grant funding level. If schools need different funding levels or will be conducting unique activities, separate applications should be submitted.
- **Applicant eligibility:** all schools listed in the application must meet applicant eligibility requirements and be signed up for CASC in [CASCPortal.org](https://cascportal.org).
- **Required application documents:** all required application documents must be submitted for each school. For example, an application for 20 *Plan* level mini-grants (20 schools) must include a recent IAQ assessment or energy audit for each of the 20 schools.

Districts with approved Multi-School Applications will be required to sign a Partner Agreement and submit a current completed W-9. Upon receipt of these items, a single payment of \$500 per school listed on the application will be issued. The second (final) payment covering all included schools will be issued after all schools submit the required documentation and meet the applicable reporting requirements. Failure of one or more schools to meet the reporting requirements may result in a prorated final payment.

Submission

Applications for an individual school should be submitted in the [CASC School Portal](https://cascportal.org). Schools unable to access the Portal may complete a PDF application form. Those submitting an application for an entire district or multiple schools within a district should complete the Multi-School PDF mini-grant application form. Contact CASC@Lung.org for a copy of the PDF application.

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Review Periods and Award Notification

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until all mini-grants are awarded or through December 2028, whichever occurs first.

Applications Received	Review Period	Schools Notified
January 1 through February 28	March 1-10	By March 15
March 1 through April 30	May 1-10	By May 15
May 1 through June 30	July 1-10	By July 15
July 1 through August 31	September 1-10	By September 15
September 1 through October 31	November 1-10	By November 15
November 1 through December 31	January 1-10	By January 15

Assess Level Mini-Grant Details

Amount: Up to \$2,500 per school

Up to twenty (20) schools within a district can receive Assess funding, for a maximum total of \$50,000 per district at this level.

Purpose: To support schools in conducting indoor air quality (IAQ) and/or energy management assessments in the school. Schools are strongly encouraged to use their state's required school assessment form or the Lung Association's Energy Efficient IAQ School Self-Assessment Tool.

Examples of Assess activities and acceptable use of funds include, but are not limited to:

- Completing a building walkthrough assessment
- Determining clean air exchange rates
- Conducting a staff survey of indoor air quality issues
- Testing for radon, asbestos, or mold
- Staff training and certification around radon measurement

Timeline: Schools have six (6) months from time of signing the MOU with the Lung Association to complete their assessment and share through the CASC School Portal or via email at CASCDocuments@Lung.org.

Required Documents Upon Applying for Assess Level: A fully completed application form.

Reporting Requirements: IAQ assessment or energy audit findings.

Plan Level Mini-Grant Details

Amount: Up to \$3,000 per school

Up to twenty (20) schools within a district can receive *Plan* funding for a maximum total of \$60,000 per district at this level. Before applying for *Plan* funding, schools must have conducted an IAQ assessment and/or energy audit within the last five years. Assessment documentation must be submitted with the application.

Purpose: To support schools in writing and adopting an Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan. This level of funding can also support schools to expand and enhance an existing Plan.

Schools are strongly encouraged to use their state's required model IAQ Management Plan or the Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan template and toolkit provided by the Lung Association. The Lung Association will review all Plans and may provide recommendations to strengthen overall comprehensiveness.

Examples of *Plan* activities and acceptable use of funds include, but are not limited to:

- Staff time to write or update an Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan
- Staff education around energy management, IAQ, and/or Management Plan
- Communication and/or education on updated Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan

Timeline: Schools have six (6) months from time of signing the MOU to complete their Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan and share through the CASC School Portal or via email at CASCDocuments@Lung.org.

Required Documents Upon Applying for *Plan* Level: A fully completed application form and the school's IAQ assessment or energy audit documentation or findings.

Reporting Requirements: A written Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan

Act Level Mini-Grant Details

Amount: Up to \$4,000 per school

Up to twenty (20) schools within a district can receive *Act* funding for a maximum total of \$80,000 per district at this level. Before applying for *Act* funding, schools must have completed an IAQ assessment and/or energy audit within the last five years and have an Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan. These documents must be submitted with the application.

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Purpose: To support schools in implementing components of an Energy Efficient IAQ Management Plan. If the submitted Management Plan does not meet minimum criteria for comprehensiveness, the Lung Association may make recommendations to strengthen the Plan and request an updated Plan before awarding funding at this level.

Examples of Act activities and acceptable use of funds include, but are not limited to:

- Change cleaning products to those with low volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Change of light bulbs to low energy LED
- HEPA vacuum cleaners
- Integrated pest management
- Outdoor “no idling” signs
- Reflective window coverings
- Timers for electrical equipment or lighting

Note: Mini-grants cannot be used for single-time maintenance activities such as painting, repairing leaky faucets, or repairing a piece of playground equipment. Funds cannot be used for construction or lobbying.

Timeline: Schools have twelve (12) months from time of signing the MOU to complete implementation activities funded by this mini-grant and share a final report through the CASC School Portal or via email at CASCDocuments@Lung.org.

Required Documents Upon Applying: Fully completed application form and the school’s Indoor Air Quality Management Plan along with assessment/energy audit findings from within the last five years.

Reporting Requirements: A completed Implementation Report Form along with photos detailing implementation activities. Applicants may request a sample Implementation Report Form and a blank one will be shared

Questions?

If you have questions about these guidelines or which level to apply for, contact CASC@Lung.org.