

## 2025-2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

Since 2005, AtlantiCare has been partnering with area schools to improve the health and wellness of staff, students and their families, with a vision of building a healthier community. In the 2025-2026 school year, AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children will award funding opportunities to partnered schools to promote the adoption and sustainability of wellness actions that align with AtlantiCare's strategic community initiatives.



## AVAILABLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following funding opportunities will grant dollars to schools to initiate or sustain ongoing wellness activities within the school setting. **One-day health fairs or one-day events will not be permitted**, as AtlantiCare is only funding ongoing activities and/or programming that will result in long-lasting behavioral changes and/or policy or environmental changes that align with the grant actions noted in their application. Schools are eligible to apply for financial support for the **\*AED Heart Heroes Program and/or one of the grant offerings listed on the menu below**. Actions are to focus on nutrition, physical activity, and/or emotional well-being or substance use prevention. Please use the menu below to identify actions eligible for funding.



## AED HEART HEROES PROGRAM

The AtlantiCare Heart Heroes is an AtlantiCare Foundation-funded program that places AEDs in the community on behalf of the Heart & Vascular Institute at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center. Schools that have not already received one in a previous year can apply to receive a new AED with the AtlantiCare Healthy Schools Grant covering the total cost.

*\*Schools will be required to complete an additional AED Heart Heroes Request Form if grant application is approved.*



## NUTRITION

## \$750 Enhancement Grant

Cafeteria enhancements/equipment, Breakfast After the Bell resources/needs, sustain existing edible garden, support USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), replacement filters for water bottle filling stations.

## \$1000 Innovation Grant

Before/after school garden club, Harvest of the Month (Jersey Tastes) or fruit/vegetable monthly cafeteria taste tests, weekend backpack nutrition program.

## \$1000 School Food Pantry Grant

Equipment and materials to start a new school food pantry or support an existing school food pantry.

## \$1000 New Edible School Garden/ Alternative Garden Grant

New Edible School Garden/Alternative Garden Project (Aeroponic/Hydroponic Indoor Garden). *\*Schools that have been awarded funding in the past for a new edible school garden but NOT an alternative garden project are eligible to apply for this award and vice versa.*

## \$1000 Hydration Station Grant

New or replacement water bottle filling station supplies, plumbing, and installation services.



## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

## \$750 Enhancement Grant

Organized play equipment, yoga balls, desk cycles, yoga mats, physical education equipment, materials to support existing student physical activity related clubs, classes, and/or teams.

## \$1000 Innovation Grant

New before/after school physical activity clubs, classes, and/or teams; adaptive physical education or playground equipment for students with disabilities.



## BUILDING RESILIENCY AND SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

In an attempt to prioritize impact in the areas of mental health and substance use, AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children seeks to assist schools in developing youth resiliency through social-emotional competency, substance use resistance, and emotional wellbeing. These grant opportunities will assist schools with the identification, implementation, and sustainability of proven social-emotional learning (SEL) and substance use prevention programs.

<b>\$750 Enhancement Grant</b>	Purchase student incentives for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) or SEL programming, staff training on resiliency/emotional wellbeing, mental health first aid or substance use/vaping prevention, design and printing of promotional materials.
<b>\$750 Resiliency Room/Zen Den Enhancement Grant</b>	Continue updating resiliency room for students and/or staff or mobile cart with materials to support resiliency, practicing mindfulness, and developing social skills.
<b>\$1000 Innovation Grant</b>	New before/after school clubs, such as empowerment or support group, student wellness committee or advocacy board initiatives, vaping detectors.
<b>\$1000 New Resiliency Room/Zen Den Grant</b>	New room for students and/or staff with equipment and materials that support building resiliency, practicing mindfulness, and developing social skills.



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - Up to \$1000

If your school is working towards improving student and/or staff attendance during the school day, you may apply for our new **School Attendance Grant**. This grant will provide funding to enhance your current attendance initiatives already in place at your school or to implement new initiatives to promote the importance and excitement of coming to school each day. If awarded, you must provide attendance rates from the 24-25 school year, list what your school is currently doing and/or will do to improve attendance, and provide updated attendance rates upon submission of your Grant Report. [Attendance Works Resource](#)



## SPECIAL REQUEST - Up to \$1000

If your school is requesting funding to support a specific action that **does not** fall under one of the above categories, but is still related to student, staff, or overall school wellness, you may apply for a **Special Request Grant**. Please contact a member of the Healthy Schools team at [healthyschools@atlanticare.org](mailto:healthyschools@atlanticare.org) to review your proposal with the following information: a brief summary of your special grant request, the target population(s), the total requested dollars, and a detailed budget breakdown in dollar amount. (Ex: Clothing closet for students or CPR certifications for staff)



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a 2025-2026 AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children funding opportunity applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ☐ Applicant must be a K-12, public or private school serving students who reside within Atlantic County, Cape May County and/or Southern Ocean County, New Jersey, or connected to AtlantiCare through our DOH grant partnership.
- ☐ Applicant school agrees to become and/or maintain its status as an active partner in AtlantiCare's Healthy Schools, Healthy Children Initiative. This includes designating a representative from its school/district to serve on the AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children Steering Committee.
- ☐ Applicant school will establish and/or maintain a [School Wellness Committee](#) that meets at least 2 times per school year.
- ☐ Applicant must be in good standing with prior AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children grant reporting requirements from SY 2024-2025 or have spoken to AtlantiCare Healthy Schools staff about an extension date.



## HOW TO APPLY

### Step 1: School Health Survey

**Due: November 21, 2025**

*\*The school health survey is a tool to identify areas where funding may support valuable actions promoting school health.*

*Schools are encouraged to complete this with their School Wellness Committee. Additional resources for developing and executing school health actions can be found online at:*

[www.healthiergeneration.org/resources](http://www.healthiergeneration.org/resources)

### Step 2: Grant Application

**Due: December 5, 2025**

*\*The grant application will outline the scope, outcomes, actions, budget and more, of your proposed project.*

Both are available on the AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children website for online completion at:

[www.atlanticare.org/healthyschools](http://www.atlanticare.org/healthyschools)

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

If awarded, the school is required to send at least one representative to our mandatory grant award workshop to learn about relevant topics that impact school health, gardening instruction, program details and reporting expectations. The workshop information is below.

Applicant must agree to an AtlantiCare site visit, if requested, to view your school's wellness efforts.

All grant dollars are to be used for education, activities and support materials. If at any time, AtlantiCare feels that the grant dollars are not being used appropriately, AtlantiCare has the right to request a refund of all monetary awards.

Awarded schools are required to submit a grant report completed in its entirety, including the appropriate supporting materials, no later than **May 15, 2026**.

Late submission of required documentation could jeopardize future eligibility for AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children funding opportunities.

Schools may only submit **one** grant application per school.

## GRANT TIMELINE

November 21, 2025	School Health Survey submitted and received by AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children
December 5, 2025	Grant application submitted and received by AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children
December 15, 2025	Grant award notification sent by AtlantiCare to schools
January 14, 2026	<b>In-Person Mandatory Grant Workshop:</b> Morning session will be attended by school garden grant recipients only; Afternoon session will be attended by ALL Grant recipients
May 15, 2026	Grant report due



## MANDATORY GRANT WORKSHOP

A school representative **MUST** be at the grant workshop in order to receive the grant check. Award checks will be distributed at the end of the culmination of the workshop. Failure to attend this mandatory workshop may jeopardize your grant award.

**January 14, 2026 @ Stockton AC Campus**  
Morning Garden Session 9:30am-11:30am  
Afternoon Wellness Session 12pm-2pm

Stay up to date with the latest Healthy Schools news!

To subscribe for text message alerts, text **HEALTHY** to 79455

*\*Msg & Data rates may apply*

