

A young girl with curly hair is high-fiving an adult's hand in a classroom. She is smiling and looking towards the adult. In the background, another child is smiling. The scene is set at a desk with papers and a green chair.

School Grants Program

Supporting schools in promoting physical and social health

Highmark Foundation School Grants

For two decades, the Highmark Foundation has been a leader in improving children’s health in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Recognizing the vital role schools play in children’s lives, the School Grants Program aims to empower schools with the resources needed to promote healthy habits and well-being among students.



When it comes to wellness, we've done our homework.

Health and wellness in schools has always been a top priority for the Highmark Foundation. That's why we're proud to present the 2025 – 2026 School Grants Program.



HIGHMARK FOUNDATION SCHOOL GRANTS

Highmark Foundation is pleased to offer schools throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia grants of up to \$7,500 to improve health and wellness and empower schools to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all students. Applications will be considered for programs that fall within the following updated categories:

- Basic Needs Support (formerly Supportive Services)
- Environmental Health
- Mental/Social Health
- Physical Health
- School Nursing Support

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You may be eligible for an award up to \$7,500 to implement programs that advance child health in your school! School applicants must:

1. **Be located in Pennsylvania or West Virginia.**
2. **Be a public, private, charter, or parochial school, or a vocational high school.**
3. **Have a programmatic need in one of the award categories.**

Please note the following exceptions:

- Equipment is only considered when necessary for the implementation of the program.
- Grants will not be awarded exclusively for equipment such as elliptical machines, stationary bikes, street/mountain bikes, bike storage sheds, treadmills, weight room power racks and storage, weight room benches, or other large, single pieces of equipment.
- Grants will not be awarded to support the purchase of iPads, Fitbits, televisions, water bottles, t-shirts, or pedometers.

Applications will be evaluated on the strength of the proposal, the specific project and need, the use of funds, and outcomes.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria, are submitted incomplete, or submitted under the wrong category will be declined.

Apply today at highmarkfoundationfp.versaic.com. **Application deadline is April 15, 2025.**



Here's some key changes to this year's program.

Each year, the Highmark Foundation explores new opportunities to serve schools by researching best practices in school settings, as well as incorporating feedback from our applicants. The goal is to maximize the impact of a grant.

UPDATED CATEGORIES

To better serve schools, the Foundation is adding two new grant categories for 2025 – 2026:

- Environmental Health
- Basic Needs Support (formerly Supportive Services)

These changes reflect increased needs in these areas and simplify the application process.

GRANTS WILL NOW BE ISSUED VIA ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

The Highmark Foundation is excited to share that you will now be able to receive your grant payment via ACH. With ACH, your payment will be automatically deposited into your school district's bank account. Whether you know it as direct deposit, direct pay, or electronic check, ACH is a new way for us to get our payments to you quickly and securely.

If you are selected as an awardee, you will receive additional information on how to sign up. If you choose not to participate, you will continue to receive any future payments in the form of a paper check.

A little extra support goes a long way.

These grant programs could be available to your school. They are provided as examples of how the Highmark Foundation can help bring about healthy change. Apply today for up to \$7,500 in one of these five categories.

BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT

Highmark Foundation will continue to support economically disadvantaged school districts identified as high-needs schools throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia with supplemental funds to meet the basic student health needs. Applicants will choose one of the following:

Child Health and Wellness Grants:

Highmark Foundation will provide grants up to \$1,000 to assist with paying for items such as socks, coats, backpack meals, clothing, and undergarments to meet students' supportive, social, and health needs.

School Equipment and Supplies Challenge Grants:

Highmark Foundation will match up to \$2,500 for the purchase of necessary items. Schools must provide a detailed invoice or purchase order and show evidence of secured funding from additional sources (PTOs, other foundations, local business donations, or school fundraisers).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Factors that influence the physical environment include the school building and surrounding areas, any biological or chemical agents that are detrimental to health, and physical conditions such as temperature, air quality, safe routes to schools, noise and lighting, and fresh drinking water.

A healthy environment includes the physical, emotional, and social conditions that affect the well-being of students.

Highmark Foundation will provide a grant up to \$7,500 for programmatic activities including (but not limited to):

- Air quality improvements.
- Water filtration systems.
- Green cleaning initiative.
- Fragrance-free environments.

MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Recognizing that social health factors are an important part of a person's overall health, programs under this category seek to connect students and families to the services and supports they need outside of the school community to be healthy. Highmark Foundation will provide a grant up to \$7,500 for programmatic activities including (but not limited to):

- Food security.
- Social-emotional learning.
- Positive school climates and school connectedness.
- Housing and homelessness interventions.



PHYSICAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Schools are an important contributor to physical health, not only because they serve as the environment in which students spend a majority of their days, but they also provide the setting for health education, physical education, breakfast and lunch meals, and nutrition education, all of which contribute to strong physical health and help individuals develop lifelong healthy habits.

Highmark Foundation will provide a grant up to \$7,500 for programmatic activities including (but not limited to):

- Increasing physical activity.
- Healthy eating/nutrition education.
- Personal hygiene.
- Health promotion and disease prevention education.

SCHOOL-BASED NURSING SUPPORT

Numerous studies have conclusively linked school-based health care to educational and health-related outcomes, such as increased use of vaccination and preventive services, reduced asthma morbidity, fewer emergency department visits and hospital admissions, and lower illegal substance use and alcohol consumption, to name a few.

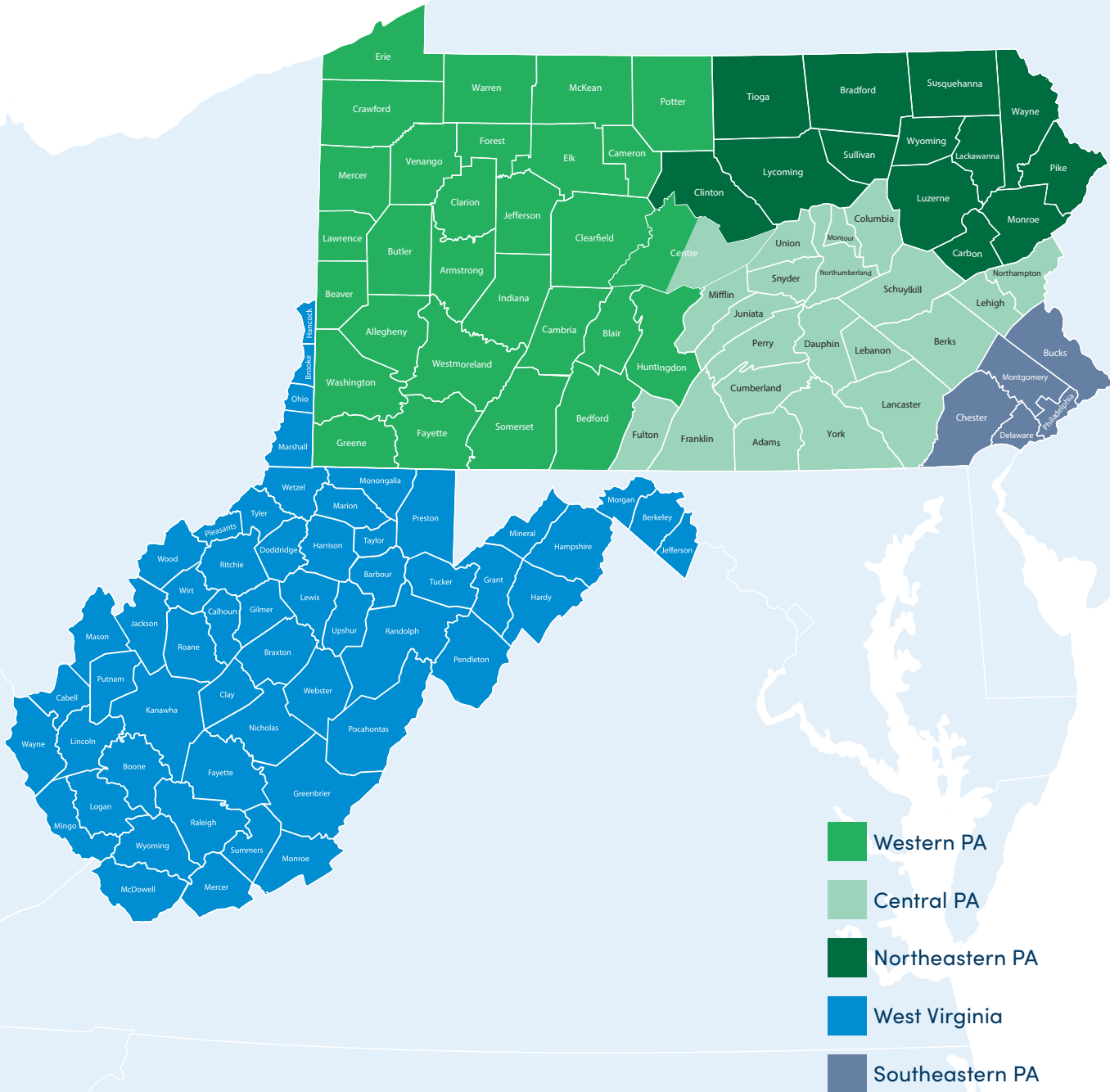
Highmark Foundation will provide a grant up to \$7,500 for programmatic activities including (but not limited to):

- Training and development/standards of practice for school nursing.
- Injury prevention and the prevention of high-risk behaviors.
- Special needs/students with disabilities health care.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APRIL 15, 2025**

At your service.

School grants improve the health and wellness of students in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



See something, share something.

We love to see our grant recipients celebrating their achievements, but we have a few guidelines for you to follow.

PHOTOS

When you capture and share your photos with us, we'll share them with future applicants on the Highmark Foundation website and in annual reports. Here are some tips for capturing great shots:

- Use a plain background where possible.
- Use flash only when necessary.
- Move in close instead of zooming.
- Take advantage of natural light.
- Take both vertical and horizontal photos.
- Share the original photo with us, not what was uploaded to the internet.
- If you'd like to share photos to be used on social media, we require signed consent from the parents of each student pictured.

SHARE IT

- Share the story and photos of your school community's achievement on your own social media platforms by using #HighmarkFoundation when posting.
- Include acknowledgment of the Highmark Foundation funding in all press releases, newsletters, brochures, annual reports, websites, and any promotional materials.



Please contact Katie Kemmerer at katie.kemmerer@highmark.com for a Highmark Health photo consent form.



Visit the Highmark Foundation at highmarkfoundation.org.
Call: 1-866-594-1730 | Email: info@highmarkfoundation.org