

ASTHO Request for Application

Leadership Exchange for Adolescent Health Promotion Plus (LEAHP+) Community of Practice Cohort 3

Summary Information

Purpose: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health, is launching the third cohort of the **Leadership Exchange for Adolescent Health Promotion Plus (LEAHP+) Community of Practice** to support education and health agencies to work together to improve health education, connect schools to services, and support safe and supportive school environments.

Proposal Due Date and Time: *Friday, October 2, 2026, by 11:59 PM EST.*

Selection Announcement Date: *Friday, October 9, 2026.*

Estimated Period of Performance: October 2026-July 2027. The project period of performance may be extended if additional funding becomes available.

Eligibility: All state and local health and education agencies or state Boards of Education.

Monetary Assistance Available to Awardees: There will be no funding available for states, territories, and jurisdictions.

ASTHO Point of Contact: Gabby Ruiz, Senior Analyst, Maternal and Child Health, adolescenthealth@astho.org. Please include "RFA: LEAHP+ Community of Practice Cohort 3" in the subject line.

Description of RFA

Background

ASTHO will lead a third cohort of a Community of Practice (CoP) of state and territorial teams offering ongoing technical assistance and facilitating peer-sharing opportunities to encourage collaboration, learning, and enhanced outcomes. This project builds on the previous cohort of the CoP, with the goal of utilizing evidence-based practices in schools to improve adolescent health. In the first two cohorts, twelve jurisdictions were supported through tailored technical assistance, receiving resources and guidance on topics such as adolescent health education, parental engagement strategies, multi-sector partnerships, and peer-to-peer network development. These efforts helped states align strategies, enhance school-based health programming, and improve adolescent access to care.

ASTHO will support teams to build partnerships with state and local health agencies, education agencies, and other key stakeholders and will work with teams to develop tailored action plans to implement and/or evaluate programs that reflect current data and best available evidence to increase impacts on adolescent school health.

ASTHO will continue to leverage its strong relationships with federal, academic, and nonprofit partners across the education and public health sectors to support the CoP. These cross-sector connections offer strategic insights and ensure alignment with the diverse needs of adolescents.

Project Activities

Applicants will be expected to participate and actively engage in the following activities, including:

- Providing information via landscape analysis to inform and refine action planning and technical assistance needs.
- Attending a virtual kick-off meeting with LEAHP+ CoP teams on November 5, 2026.
- Attending an in-person convening. This convening will feature subject matter experts and provide opportunities to develop and bolster relationships. Travel and expenses will be provided for up to four team members per jurisdiction. The convening will take place in May 2027. Exact dates and more information will be shared in late Fall 2026.
- Attending CoP activities as appropriate, including *ASTHOConnects* virtual learning sessions, technical assistance calls, and team-to-team learning opportunities.
- Developing an action plan with state and education partners and participating in technical assistance activities with ASTHO staff, as needed.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this initiative include stronger collaboration between public health and education sectors, and increased use of data to inform decision-making. Overall, this initiative seeks to create a sustainable framework for addressing adolescent health through school-based strategies, ensuring long-term benefits for individuals and communities.

Technical Support

ASTHO will provide information and technical support to the awardee at no cost. Technical support may be provided by the project's stakeholder workgroup, other teams within the CoP, and partners. ASTHO

provides various types of technical assistance, including resource development, data and evaluation support, capacity building, and facilitating cross-sector and peer-to-peer connections.

Submission Information

Selection Criteria

Applicants are asked to complete the Application Worksheet (p. 4) and demonstrate:

- Support from agency and/or division leadership for teams to engage in the LEAHP+ CoP activities and signed Commitment of Collaboration from program leadership (see application below).
- Interest in peer-to-peer learning and collaboration to improve adolescent health in schools in the applicant's jurisdiction.

Each team should have at least three (3) participants on their CoP team. Team members are expected to participate in all LEAHP+ virtual meetings and action planning sessions. Teams can include anyone from the state or jurisdiction but ideally would include representatives from the state and/or local health agency and from a local education agency. Other representatives can include additional staff from a state agency or education agency, state board of education, youth advocates, Medicaid, or non-profit partners that operate within a participant's jurisdiction. If applicants don't have relationships but would like to engage them in the Community of Practice, ASTHO can facilitate a connection if one does not already exist.

Application Procedure

ASTHO must receive applications by **Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET**. Please submit an electronic copy of the application to adolescenthealth@astho.org. Please include "RFA: LEAHP+ Community of Practice Cohort 3" in the subject line. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Key Dates

- September 4, 2026: RFA released
- October 2, 2026, 11:59 PM ET: Application submission deadline
- October 9, 2026: Awardees announced
- November 5, 2026, 2:00-2:45 PM ET: Virtual Community of Practice Cohort 2 Orientation (mandatory).
- May 2027: In-Person Community of Practice Convening. Travel and expenses will be provided for up to four team members per jurisdiction (mandatory). Details regarding exact dates and location to be shared in Fall 2026.

LEAHP+ Community of Practice Application Form

Please copy the application below and return a signed Word or PDF document to the LEAHP+ team at adolescenthealth@astho.org by **October 2, 2026**. Please include “RFA: LEAHP+ Community of Practice Cohort 3” in the subject line.

Applicant Information

Teams should have at least three (3) team members. Please add additional team member boxes if the number of team members exceeds five (5).

Team Lead (Primary Contact)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 2

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 3

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 4 (Optional)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 5 (Optional)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Jurisdiction Team Interest

Please keep responses to three (3) total pages.

Provide a brief overview of your jurisdiction's adolescent school health programming (such as improving health education, access to health services, safe and supportive environments, etc.), including key activities and targeted outcomes.
Explore your jurisdiction's current opportunities and barriers in implementing adolescent school health. What new roles or skills do you need to improve implementation or evaluation of these programs for your jurisdiction?
Describe how participation in this Community of Practice will support your current and future work in adolescent or school health for your jurisdiction. What would your team like to get out of participation in this Community of Practice?
What specific types of technical assistance, training, or resources would be most valuable to your team in achieving your goals for adolescent school health? Please include any areas where your team could benefit from additional expertise or support.

Statement of Participation

Please read the Commitment to Collaboration and provide signature by project and program leadership below.

Commitment to Collaboration

In the spirit of collaboration, our team is committed to working with ASTHO, CDC, and their partners. In this regard, our agency offers to:

- Identify core team members and secure leadership support.
- Develop an action plan and identify related technical assistance needs.
- Participate in virtual orientation on November 5, 2026, 2:00-2:45PM ET and virtual office hours as appropriate during the Community of Practice.
- Participate in the in-person convening in May 2027. Travel and expenses will be provided for up to four team members per jurisdiction.
- Attend all required action planning and programmatic update meetings. Regularity of meetings will be set by the team.
- Participate in process and outcome evaluation efforts.

Project team lead name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Program or division lead name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____