

**Title:** 2022 Community School Model Initiative: Grant Opportunity

**Background:** On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 (P.L 117-2). This law provides additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) programs, which are authorized as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), have a rich history of promoting efforts to support families and prevent child maltreatment. The law emphasizes support for community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect. Moreover, the Children’s Bureau, recognizes that effective primary prevention services must be in communities where families live, where they are easily accessible, and culturally responsive. ARPA supplemental funding for the CBCAP program may be used to enhance community- based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect in a manner consistent with any of the program purposes of CBCAP outlined in section 201of CAPTA.

**Overview:** The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requests applications for one-time grant funding available through the CBCAP American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Funds will be dispersed to enhance the community school model and help support child abuse and neglect prevention with evidence-based child maltreatment and neglect programming, training, and parenting resources. Focusing on relationship building, accountability, bullying prevention, parenting classes, etc. All funding must be expended by September 31, 2024.

**Eligible Applicants:** To be eligible for this one-time funding opportunity, applicants must show they can sustain the community school model in their district after grant funding is expended.

The school district applying for the grant funding must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Have a sustainability plan for the community school model.
2. Plan and strategies to enhance the community school model to support child abuse prevention and neglect
3. Have community partners with whom the school district collaborates with to sustain and support the community school model.

To be eligible for funding, the written plan must be specifically related to the community school model and the needs of the school to enhance the program locally, and how that will support child abuse and neglect prevention.

Eligible expenses may include but not limited to:

1. Salary funding for Community School Site Coordinators
2. Programs to meet food insecurity
3. Programs targeting abuse and neglect
  - a. Enhancing Parent and/or Family Hubs
  - b. Technology needs
  - c. Supplies to promote stronger and healthier families within the school

**Application Guidelines:** Schools applying for 2022 Community School Initiative Grant Funding must submit a completed application to DHS/DCFS to include:

1. Application Cover Page.
2. Narrative including the school's mission and vision statements and a summary of the school's ability to sustain the Community School model in their district. This document shall not exceed two (2) typed pages, double-spaced.
3. Supporting documentation demonstrating the schools' plan and strategies for starting or enhancing their community school model to help support child abuse prevention and neglect and a list of community partners with whom the school district is already collaborating with to sustain the model.
4. At least two (2) letters of commitment are required from community providers or other outside organizations that clearly supports the community school model in the school district.
5. Written plan detailing:
  - a. The proposed scope of work and budget for each service or item as applicable.
  - b. The school's sustainability plan after funding is utilized through grant.

Further information may be requested from DHS by select awardees. The maximum amount that may be requested is \$400,000.00. DCFS will determine the actual amount to be awarded.

**Award Information:** Applications will be reviewed in the order received and awarded upon review and final approval. Review and approval processes will begin as soon as applications are received. Those submitted after 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2022, will not be accepted. Total funds awarded cannot exceed the amount approved for this section. Funds must be used by September 31, 2024, based on the organization's submitted plan. Funds are for eligible costs, as detailed above, incurred through September 31, 2024. Once funds are awarded, monthly reports will be required and submitted to DCFS that detail expenditures for that month, including required financial reports or receipts for review and verification. There will be milestones put into place to meet before funding is given, based upon the scope of work. Monthly reports will be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month, or the next business day if the 10<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday. Any awarded funds not spent in accordance with the applicants written plan by September 31, 2024, will not be available and will be forfeited.

**Application Submission Requirements:** Applications and supporting documentation outlined above are requested as soon as possible but **must be received via email by 4:30 p.m. on April 29, 2022.** These are to be submitted to [angela.newcomb@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:angela.newcomb@dhs.arkansas.gov) and [leslie.sebren@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:leslie.sebren@dhs.arkansas.gov). Late submissions will not be accepted.