

**Posted: 2/26/2016**

To: SFS Directors/Supervisors

From: Kate Holmes, Early Childhood and School Health Leader, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Re: SFS-16-54 Request for schools to participate in Healthy School Fundraising Project

The Health Promotion Team of the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Office of Public Health (OPH) and Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) are working together with schools to pilot healthy fundraising alternatives that meet both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Louisiana Smart Snacks guidelines. These guidelines were developed with the goal of offering healthier snack foods to children and improving the overall school health environment.

Challenges exist around finding fundraising opportunities that comply with the state and federal Smart Snacks guidelines. Many of the fundraisers that are not in compliance bring in large revenue to help fund programs that could possibly be cut without these funding streams. Consequently, we understand that enforcement and compliance are not always a priority in schools when faced with other challenges.

To help find solutions to these challenges, The Health Promotion Team and LPHI will work with schools to assess current fundraising practices and work to find healthy fundraising alternatives that meet the Smart Snacks guidelines in schools. Input from schools is vital in shaping the importance of healthy fundraising in Louisiana. This project has three main components. First, LPHI will work with schools to assess their current practices around fundraising. Second, LPHI and Health Promotion will work with schools to gather success stories on healthy fundraising that meet the Smart Snacks guidelines. Finally, Health Promotion and LPHI will work together to create the Well Ahead Louisiana Healthy Fundraising toolkit that includes Louisiana-specific fundraising alternatives.

We are looking for schools to participate in the assessment. This assessment will provide valuable information and help the team learn more about the successes and challenges of following the Smart Snacks guidelines, specifically for fundraisers. LPHI will work with selected schools and key stakeholders at each school to implement the assessment and provide technical assistance and guidance to any school with questions about the assessment. The assessment will be simple and straightforward and will allow us to identify specific strategies around healthy fundraising in Louisiana schools.

To participate in the School Healthy Fundraising assessment, please contact Guenevere Hoy at [ghoy@lphi.org](mailto:ghoy@lphi.org) or 504-325-2682 by Friday, March 18.