



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

MEMORANDUM

Date: 3/5/2026

To: Board of Health and Common Council

From: Charles E Sepers, Jr, PhD, Health Officer/Director

Subject: Recommendation to Accept Wisconsin Asthma Program Grant Award (\$10,000)

Purpose and Background

I recommend that the Board of Health formally accept the \$10,000 award granted to the Appleton Department of Public Health through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Wisconsin Asthma Program. This funding supports two coordinated components of the Appleton Asthma Friendly Spaces Initiative, each designed to reduce environmental asthma triggers within the City of Appleton.

High Level Summary of Proposed Projects

The grant supports two complementary activities:

- Activity 1 – Outdoor Air Quality Awareness (AQI Flag Program):

Implementation of the EPA Air Quality Flag system at select Appleton parks and pilot schools. This includes stakeholder engagement, procurement of 5 color AQI flags, staff training, public education materials, social media outreach during ozone season, and support for schools pursuing the Healthy Spaces Badge. The initiative helps students, outdoor workers, and community members understand outdoor air quality conditions and adjust activities to reduce exposure to triggers.

- Activity 2 – Indoor Trigger Reduction (Healthy Homes Initiative):

Development and launch of an Asthma Friendly Housing Toolkit (EPA checklists, healthy housing standards, remediation resources). The project includes a public workshop during National Healthy Homes Month, training for landlords and maintenance staff in green cleaning and integrated pest management, and a local "Asthma Friendly Space" Badge for property owners implementing recommended practices. This activity targets indoor air quality in rental housing, public housing, and commercial spaces.

Together, these activities create a coordinated approach to minimizing both indoor and outdoor asthma triggers, align with the EXHALE strategy, and leverage Appleton's strong network of institutional partners.

Recommendation

The grant requires no local match and is fully reimbursable through DHS. Accepting this award will allow the department to move forward with project planning, community partner engagement, and DHS coordination as outlined in the grant workplans. I recommend approval so project activities may begin immediately.