

**2016 All-America City Award Application**

***Spotlight: Ensuring All Children Are***

***Healthy and Supported to Succeed in School and Life***

***Collaboration Partners: Attendance Works and Healthy Schools Campaign***

**Deadlines:**

**September 2015-February 2016: Monthly conference calls on spotlight and AAC process**

**November 4, 2015: Submit Letter of Intent to Apply** (Letter of Intent is not required, however, save $100 on your application fee when you submit a Letter of Intent to Apply by November 4, 2015!)

**March 9, 2016: Submit Application**

**April 2016: Finalists Announced.** Finalist community delegations will be invited to Denver to present.

**June 2016: Peer-Learning Workshops & Awards Presentation/Competition** in Denver, Colorado.

**Application Guidelines**:

The National Civic League invites you to apply for America’s original and most prestigious community award, now in its 67th year. In 2016, the All-America City Award will recognize ten communities for their projects, plans for the future, and community vision that demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness, impact, civic engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. The 2016 spotlight for the Award are efforts focused on community-wide health and education strategies that enable all children to succeed in school and in life. School attendance and healthy school projects are particularly welcome and in alignment with our collaborating partners, Attendance Works and Healthy Schools Campaign. We also welcome other projects that benefit all children, particularly at-risk children, using education and/or healthy community strategies. We encourage projects that address any barrier to children’s success in school and life, including but not limited to attendance, health (of children, parents and community), positive discipline interventions, transportation, poverty, healthy food access, job opportunities (for students, parents and community members), affordable and safe housing, and safe and healthy natural environments. Our goal with this spotlight is to raise up local examples of innovative and effective community problem-solving that recognizes all influences on the success of children and uses all sectors to address those influences. For examples and ideas please see the resource section of this application for links to helpful information. Or contact National Civic League at 303-571-4343 or aac@ncl.org. This year, we are interested in recognizing not only the work that has been accomplished but also the plans and vision for future work. For that reason, we give you the option of telling us about vision or plans or accomplishments in your project descriptions.

A youth member of one finalist community is also recognized with the AAC Youth Award. Nominations for this award will be requested after finalists are announced.

**Community Information**

**Community name and state: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Your community is applying as a:**

\_\_\_ Neighborhood \_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_ Town \_\_\_ Tribe \_\_\_ City \_\_\_ County \_\_\_ Region

**If applying as a region, name participating communities: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If applying as a neighborhood, name city: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Has your community applied before?** Yes No If Yes, which years:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Has your community been a Finalist before?** Yes No If Yes, which years:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Has your community been an All-America City before?** Yes No If Yes, which years:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information**

**All-America City Award contact (primary contact person available throughout competition & follow-up):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title (if any):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Government/Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (business/day): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The applying community will receive a complimentary membership (or membership renewal if an AAC application was submitted last year) to the National Civic League for one year. To whom should this membership be directed?**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**We agree to follow NCL’s rules regarding use of the All‑America City Award logo, a registered trademark of the National Civic League. We allow NCL and the All-America City Award to share this application and the information enclosed in it with the NCL and AAC networks to promote the work of our community. If we are named an All-America City, we agree to conduct a post-AAC conference call or regional forum for the AAC network that features our projects. In a pay-it-forward spirit, if named a finalist or All-America City, we agree to consider supporting AAC through an NCL membership for a minimum of the next three years.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Statistics and Map**

Note: Use the most up-to-date statistics possible for your neighborhood, town, city, county, or region (source suggestions: U.S. Census Bureau, State Department of Economic Security, State Department of Finance, Department of Public Health, and local school statistics).

POPULATION (in year 2010 or most recent):

Source/Date:

POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2000-2010 (indicate + or -): %

Source/Date:

RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATION BREAKDOWN:

White \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Asian \_\_\_\_\_\_%

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Mixed Race \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Other \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Source/Date:

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Source/Date:

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL: %

Source/Date:

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

Source/Date:

POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP (percentages, if available):

19 years old and under \_\_\_\_\_\_%

20-24 \_\_\_\_\_\_%

25-44 \_\_\_\_\_\_%

45-64 \_\_\_\_\_\_%

65 and over \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Source/Date:

PERCENTAGE OF HOME OWNERSHIP: %

Source/Date:

WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION -- Name the three largest employment sectors (include military services and/or installations, if any) in your community and provide the percentage of total employed in each:

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

Source/Date:

**MAP** -- Please attach a state map (8.5” x 11”) with your community clearly marked

**ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARDS CRITERIA**

1. **Civic Engagement and Collaboration**: comprehensive citizen/resident engagement in decision-making and action planning, cross-sector collaboration (business, local government, nonprofits, military, etc.) and regional collaboration.
2. **Inclusiveness and Diversity**: recognition and involvement of diverse segments and perspectives (ethnic, racial, socio-economic, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, people with disabilities, and others) in community decision-making.
3. **Innovation**: creative use and leveraging of community resources.

**Impact and Future Planning and Vision:** demonstrable, significant, and measureable achievements from the past 5 years (for example: reduction in chronic absenteeism rates, increased access to school health services, improved student fitness scores, increased number of affordable housing units, or improved third-grade reading levels). Especially for communities who have recently begun this work, we also welcome a description of a community-wide vision or long-term plan to address local challenges, particularly in projects that address the community’s greatest challenges.

**Resources Available to You**

As you fill out this application, it may be helpful to consult the following material:

1. For questions to help evaluate your civic infrastructure--***NCL’s* *Civic Index***. Ask for a free copy! AAC@ncl.org
2. To help identify associations and their impact in your community--***New Community Tools for Improving Child Health: A Pediatrician’s Guide to Local Associations****.* (Provided by permission of co-author John McKnight) <http://www.abcdinstitute.org/docs/Pediatricians.pdf>
3. For an asset-based framework--***Discovering Community Power: A Guide to Mobilizing Local Assets and Your Organization’s Capacity.*** *(*Provided by permission of co-author John McKnight) <http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/images/kelloggabcd.pdf>
4. ***National Civic Review* Articles**:
	1. [*Tackling Chronic Absence Starting in the Early Grades: What Cities Can Do to Ensure Every Child Has a Fighting Chance to Succeed*](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Chang_et_al-2011-National_Civic_Review.pdf)
	2. [*What Makes an All-America City?*](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Lipscomb-2014-National_Civic_Review.pdf)
5. [Previous All-America City presentations](http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/?page_id=5682)
6. [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org) **Attendance Works** is a national and state initiative that promotes better policy and practice around school attendance. We promote tracking chronic absence (missing so much school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences) beginning in kindergarten, or ideally earlier, and partnering with families and community agencies to intervene when poor attendance is a problem for students or schools. Interested in learning more? Watch this [Bringing Attendance Home](http://vimeo.com/101425388) video.
7. [www.healthyschoolscampaign.org](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org) **Healthy Schools Campaign** has developed an effective approach that is helping transform the school experience for children in Chicago and across the nation. This means working at multiple levels — with individual schools, throughout Chicago and nationally. The goal is a future in which all students have access to a school environment that provides healthy food, physical activity, nutrition education and health services. This gives students the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to live healthy lives. Learn more about our work on this site — from [**food policy**](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/policy/food) to [**environmental justice**](http://www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/policy/environment) and much more.
8. <http://gradelevelreading.net/> **The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading** is a collaborative effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The Campaign focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation—grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

**PART I: TELL YOUR COMMUNITY’S STORY**

Tell us your community’s story. Focus on the last ten years of your community’s progress and development and how that has benefited your residents. Utilizing the awards criteria (above) describe how your community addresses its pressing challenges and plans for its future. How are citizens/residents involved in planning and implementation? Provide examples of cross sector collaboration among the neighborhoods, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations engaged in these efforts. How is the community illustrating diversity and inclusiveness? What is your community’s vision? Include real examples of how your community has demonstrated its strengths, innovations, and faced its challenges. Don’t forget to tell us about the people in your community. (2,000 word maximum)

**PART II: DESCRIBE THREE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECTS**

Describe your three best projects that have a compelling community-wide vision or short- or long-term plan or have resulted in significant local impact and action planning within the past five years. We welcome descriptions of projects that ensure the success of all children, including at-risk children, through health or healthy community strategies; and/or education strategies particularly those seeking to improve attendance in school; and/or projects that reflect the intersection of health and education. Past All-America City Award applicants have highlighted projects to increase third grade reading success for at-risk children, to increase health care for underserved populations, to create new businesses and jobs, to revitalize downtown, to engage youth in identifying and planning services and facilities, to promote cross sector collaborative centers, to increase fiscal sustainability, to develop emergency disaster plans, to recover from a natural disaster, and more. For 2016, NCL invites all applicants to include at least one project in their application that spotlights your community’s approaches to ensuring all children are healthy and succeeding in school. Be sure to tell us how each of these projects promote civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness, innovation, and impact. See criteria above and consult NCL’s Civic Index – available at no cost to applicants. Request it at aac@ncl.org.

**PROJECT ONE**

Provide the project name and a description of its vision or plan for future work or qualitative and quantitative impacts in the past five years. *(2,000 word maximum)* Tell us the challenge being addressed, actions taken, and the impact/outcomes of this project on your community’s residents.

Provide the name of the primary contact for the project. Name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. *(This person may be contacted to verify information.)*

**PROJECT TWO**

Provide the project name and a description of its vision or plan for future work or qualitative and quantitative impacts in the past five years. *(2,000 word maximum)* Tell us the challenge being addressed, actions taken, and the impact/outcomes of this project on your community’s residents.

Provide name of the primary contact for the project. Name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. *(This person may be contacted to verify information.)*

**PROJECT THREE**

Provide the project name and a description of its vision or plan for future work or qualitative and quantitative impacts in the past five years. *(2,000 word maximum)* Tell us the challenge being addressed, actions taken, and the impact/outcomes of this project on your community’s residents.

Provide the name of the primary contact for the project. Name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. *(This person may be contacted to verify information.)*

*End of Application. Thank you for submitting your All-America City Award Application!*

***Submit the application:***

***1) by email (******aac@ncl.org******) or fax (888-314-6053)by Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 11:59 p.m. PST; and,***

***2) mail one hard copy with $200(\*You only pay $100 application fee if you submit a Letter of Intent to Apply by November 4, 2015) application fee to:***

***National Civic League, 6000 East Evans Ave., Suite 3-012, Denver, Colorado 80222.***

Need additional guidance? Email aac@ncl.org or go to [**www.nationalcivicleague**](http://www.nationalcivicleague)**.org** for announcements of upcoming conference calls for prospective applicants and AAC resources or call NCL at 303-571-4343.

**Timeline:**

September 2015-February 2016 – Monthly conference calls with NCL staff and AAC community leaders to learn more about the benefits of AAC, application tips for success, and to share best practices on the spotlight.

November 4, 2014 -- Letter of Intent to Apply Due. The Letter of Intent is not required. However you save $100 of the application fee if you submit a Letter of Intent to Apply by November 4, 2015.

March 9, 2016, Wednesday -- Application Due

April 2016 -- Finalists Announced

Finalist community-wide delegations will be invited to Denver to present.

April-June 2016 – Finalist communities assemble your cross-sector community delegation to present your story at the June 2016 awards event and peer-learning conference. Raise the funds to send your delegation to the June event in Denver. *Finalist community delegations will be asked to present their story to a national jury of civic, local government, business, philanthropy, and community experts. All applicants are invited to participate in the June workshops and networking opportunities!*

June 2016, Peer-Learning Workshops & Awards Competition/Presentation in Denver, Colorado

July 2016-Feb 2017, All-America Cities tell their community’s story through a series of AAC/NCL coordinated conference calls and regional forums to the AAC network.