



## DIABETES GRANT REPORT

### Year-End Report, 2022-23 Lions Empowering and Aiding Regional

### Nurses in Schools (LEARNS)

### Phase 3

#### General Grant Project Information

LCIF Tracking Number: DIA19504/24L

Approved grant amount: \$45,000

Date the project started and anticipated (or actual) date of completion: July 1, 2021–June 30, 2024

Reporting period: July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

#### Approved project output targets:

*Direct beneficiaries: School nurses and school personnel completing diabetes e-learning modules.*

Pursuant to Virginia Code, school nurses are obligated to participate in a diabetes education program and provide diabetes education to school personnel on an annual basis. These programs vary from school district to school district and are dependent upon the resources available within that school district.

LEARNS has been implemented to provide a consistent, current, quality education program through an e-learning format. We have seen a significant increase in participation as awareness of the program spread. We also have seen a significant increase in school districts requiring all school personnel to complete the e-learning modules. We have increased the number of schools districts eligible for the program beyond District 24-L, and we presently have 94 school districts, 2 Catholic Dioceses, and 6 private schools enrolled in the program. There were 12 new school districts participating, and 19 school districts have paid for the program themselves. There are 1,366 schools were enrolled in the program for the 2022-23 school year. We had three school districts opt out of the program as they either didn't have children with diabetes, or they have another source of education. There are 39 school districts that did not enroll. We have seen significant participation by new school districts. School districts previously enrolled are continuing to use the program and are most appreciative of the quality and easy access to the education. Eleven thousand eight hundred sixteen courses have been completed since July 2022.

The Virginia Department of Education provided Work Force Funding for school districts for this school year. Some school districts took advantage of that program and purchased the LEARNS program themselves. We determined; however, this was not an easy process and took perseverance in order to have Salus approved as a vendor. For example, Richmond School District was unable



to purchase the program, and the vendor application was not easily navigated. Therefore, they were given a LEARNS grant for the second half of the school year. The Virginia DOE is working to simplify this process, and we are communicating with school districts that *Salus Diabetes Care at Schools: Bridging the Gap* should be included in their budget for the 2023-24 school year. Inasmuch as the 2023-24 school year will be the last year we have funding, we will be working diligently to improve access to the program. We developed a form letter that provides information about the program to be shared by school nurses with administrators.

This year, we required that school districts submit an application in order to receive the grant funding. The application was just to provide a list of their school, the number of students, and the number of students with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Since applications were sent out beginning in January 2023, this is the most accurate data we have for school year 2022-23. However, it is not complete as all school districts did not re-enroll, or they purchased it themselves and I did not receive data from them. The Virginia DOE is now tracking more health data, and schools are now mandated to provide diabetes incidence data to DOE at the end of the school year.

Our data from last year and previous years will allow us to evaluate whether or not there was an increased incidence of diabetes in school age children that has occurred with the onset of COVID-19.

Licenses were provided before July 1, 2022, thus permitting the school nurse to enroll in the program before the beginning of the school year and to engage school personnel in the program before the opening of school. Our greatest enrollment numbers occur during the summer months.

*Indirect beneficiaries: Children with diabetes and parents of children living with diabetes.*

We have participated in JDRF health fairs and have raised awareness of this program among parents. We also presented to Pediatric Endocrinologists to make them aware of this program and the success we have had in Virginia. We also have shared information with the Delaware Diabetes Council, which is looking to use the program in the state of Delaware.

***Provide the number of direct beneficiaries from the project. Please explain how this was calculated. Direct beneficiaries are individuals who are an active part of the project and from whom data is collected towards project outputs, e.g., individuals screened for diabetes. The direct beneficiaries of LEARNS Phase 2 are the school districts in Virginia, the school nurses, and school personnel. Salus Education provides a monthly usage report. This report provides information on the enrollment and completion of the e-learning modules.***

There are 94 school districts enrolled in the program this school year. 85 school districts actively used the program during the 2022-23 school year.



The following are some comments from the evaluations:

- I felt that the delivery of information was done in a very user-friendly format.
- The information was given at a nice speed and with examples throughout. I was able to follow along and really take in the information as it was given.
- Thank you for this training!
- Great course, great training.
- Very good training; will utilize this information in our classroom if and when necessary.

Outcome data collected by Salus from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 shows the following results:

The *Continuing Nursing Education* program showed a score of 77.3 on the pre-test and a score of 91.8 on the post-test with a sample size of 992.

The evaluation questions showed on a scale of 1=Not At All and 4=Completely Effective:

- How effective were the teaching/learning materials? 3.68
- Was the content relevant to the learning outcome? 3.76

The *Diabetes Awareness Training* for school personnel evaluation question showed on a scale of 1-5 with 1=Very Insecure and 5=Very Confident with a sample size of 4,848:

- Prior to completing *Diabetes Awareness Training*, how confident were you in your ability to recognize the signs and symptoms of high and low blood sugar? 3.42
- After completing *Diabetes Awareness Training*, how confident are you in your ability to recognize the signs and symptoms of high and low blood sugar? 4.11
- After completing *Diabetes Awareness Training*, how much more capable are you of being able to identify a diabetes-related emergency and, if necessary, call for help? 4.06

The Non-Medical Personnel Data showed a pre-test score of 59 and a post-test score of 84. The evaluation questions showed on a scale of 1-4 with 1=Very Insecure and 5=Very Confident with a sample size of 2,436:

- Prior to completing the *Diabetes Care at School: Bridging the Gap* training program, how confident were you in your ability to assist a student with diabetes? 3.4

After completing the *Diabetes Care at School: Bridging the Gap* training program, how confident are you in your ability to assist a student with diabetes? 4.1

There has been steady growth with the program with more users each year. The LEARNS Committee is very pleased with these results. The data has shown that additional school districts have mandated training for all staff, and those school districts that mandated it last year mandated it again this year. We have had a 66% increase in usage over the past year.



The LEARNS Committee and Salus Education sponsored a booth at the Annual School Nurse Meeting in November. We had the opportunity to meet with school nurses face to face. They expressed their appreciation of the program and shared information with colleagues not enrolled in the program.

We also have been more successful in identifying key personnel and establishing a relationship with them for this school year, 2022-23. We have continued to communicate with all school districts in order to reduce barriers. The ongoing support by the Virginia Department of Education has been instrumental in the success of the program. The Virginia Diabetes Council has become more involved and has provided staff to reach out to all school districts ensuring that we have an appropriate contact in each district. Grant funding for staff education is now available from the Virginia Department of Education that will allow school districts to purchase the program themselves. We are working hard to get school districts to make this a budget item for all schools.

***Provide the number of indirect beneficiaries from the project. Please explain how this was calculated. Indirect beneficiaries are individuals who have not had direct contact with the project but who have benefitted from changes stimulated by the project; for example, family members of diabetics referred for follow-up care.***

*The indirect beneficiaries of this project would be the children with diabetes and their parents. According to data collected on our most recent applications from 51 schools, there are 1,066 children with Type 1 diabetes and 208 children with Type 2 diabetes. In my last report, we had data from 83 schools, and there were 2,249 children with Type 1 diabetes and 326 with Type 2 diabetes. This data is now being collected annually by Department of Education. Thus, the Virginia DOE will be more effective in identifying trends and making recommendations.*

Another unmeasurable benefit is the diabetes education we are providing to individuals with diabetes who are members of the school community, both school personnel and their families. Anecdotal comments from our evaluations show that individuals who were living with diabetes or had family members with diabetes gained knowledge and a better understanding of disease management.

***How do the actual project outputs and number of beneficiaries compare to the approved project outputs?***

The success of the program has far exceeded our expectations. Large school districts have embraced the program and mandated that all school personnel must receive the education. We also have seen engagement of school bus drivers, cafeteria staff, counseling staff, school boards, as well as superintendents and their staff. We have found that school districts that have a nurse coordinator



are more engaged in the program as they recognize the need for the education and the burden this removes from individual school nurses.

We continue to reach out to Administrators in districts that don't have a nurse coordinator to raise awareness of the need for education. However, with the lack of understanding about diabetes, this has presented a barrier in some districts. Additionally, we have found a lack of awareness by school districts and school nurses that this education is mandated by the Virginia Code. Frequent turnover of staff in these positions also have posed a burden as we are not notified of changes, and materials may be sent to the wrong individual or a mailbox that no longer exists or is checked. We have worked closely with Virginia DOE to keep our contact list current and accurate.

In evaluations, it has been evident that office staff who may be assigned the responsibility of caring for these students in the absence of a school nurse are overwhelmed by the responsibility and feel the materials are not appropriate for a non-medical person. They view this as an added burden in an already-stressed school system. The LEARNS Committee has worked closely with Salus to improve the instructions provided on how to use the training and provided technical assistance as needed. That has helped those school districts and school staff that lack an understanding of technology to utilize the program without a problem.

We discovered that personal phone calls to each district to explain the program were very effective, and we will be reaching out to school districts not enrolled over the next six months. During the renewal process this year from January–June 2023, each school district within the Commonwealth was contacted by either the project manager or the Virginia Diabetes Council Executive Director, or the Virginia Department of Education to determine why they have not used the program and, if they did not re-enroll for the 2023-24 school year, why not? This outreach effort has been instrumental in re-enrolling school districts and engaging new school districts. The Virginia Diabetes Council has taken an active role in promoting the program across the state. The ongoing support of the Virginia Department of Education has been instrumental in the success of the program.

Once again, we reached out beginning in January 2023 to encourage school districts to include the program in their school budgets for the upcoming year. We also have reached out to Lions Clubs to adopt a school district or schools to allow us to use funds to enroll new school districts in 2023-24.

***To what extent have the project output targets been achieved?***

The LEARNS Committee is very pleased with our progress within Lions District 24-L. We have received support from individual Lions Clubs to adopt school districts for the long term as an annual budget item.





The Type 1 Diabetes Experience, a diabetes support group in Lynchburg, Virginia, which was responsible for starting this program in Virginia a number of years ago, donated over \$7,500 to allow us to expand LEARNS across the state.

The Virginia Department of Education has been promoting this program across the Commonwealth, and they have raised the awareness about the program among school districts. This year the Virginia Department of Education has funding set aside to provide Salus Education to any school district that is not able to purchase the program. We have used our total funding by July 1, 2023 so this ensures that if school districts decide to enroll now we have sufficient funding. We will continue to attempt to identify other sources of funding in order to continue to expand the program across the Commonwealth. We also have negotiated a state rate for the program allowing school districts and other organizations to purchase the licenses at the reduced state rate of \$23.10.

The success of this program far surpassed our expectations. As we enter our final year, we will be working hard to ensure the program is sustainable.

### **Narrative Report**

***Provide a detailed description of the project activities completed during the current reporting period.***

- Monthly conference calls with the LEARNS Committee.
- Monthly usage reports sent to school districts.
- Monthly Zoom calls by the Virginia Department of Education to all school districts health personnel.
- August: Presentation at the American Association of Diabetes Education and Care Specialists Virtual Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.
- November: Vendor table by LEARNS and Salus Education at Virginia Annual School Nurse Meeting.
- November: Reached out to the Virginia PTAs to make them aware of the LEARNS program. Sent out press releases across the state to inform them of the LEARNS project.
- December: Article published in the Fredericksburg Free Lance Star about LEARNS.
- Presentation to Pediatric Endocrinologist Annual Meeting.

***Have there been limitations or difficulties in implementing the project? If so, please describe.***

Due to the generosity of the Type 1 Diabetes Experience Support Group, we have been able to enroll additional schools outside of the geographic boundaries of the original grant. This area of Virginia has limited resources and a high incidence of diabetes. This year, we received an additional \$7,500 from this organization in order to continue our efforts in the next two years of our grant process.



***Have there been any deviations from the approved project?***

No.

***Provide the number of Lions directly involved in implementing the project, including their roles and responsibilities.***

We presently have 20 Lions Clubs that have established this as an annual initiative and will provide ongoing support to their school districts. Three Lions Clubs have made undesignated donations to LEARNS funds.

The Program Administrator has engaged clubs and promoted the program.

The Program Manager has:

- Provided monthly usage reports to school districts.
- Interacted with Salus Education in purchasing licenses and providing feedback on the program.
- Presented at numerous events and meetings.
- Participated in monthly calls with LEARNS Committee.
- Communicated with school districts, school nurses, and school administrators to share information and enroll them in LEARNS.
- Written articles for the Paw Prints, newspapers, and newsletters.
- Completed grant applications to obtain additional funding.
- Worked with the Virginia Diabetes Council and the Virginia Department of Education to identify other sources of funding.

### **Financial Report**

***Please provide a detailed financial report for the use of the grant funds and any local matching funds. Grantees should keep receipts documenting the expenses, to be provided to LCIF upon request. In addition, please provide the following:***

- ***Statement of expenditures as a comparison with the approved grant budget. Provide a narrative explanation for any budget deviations.***
- ***Recent bank statement for the grant bank account since last report. See Addendum 3***
- ***An itemized budget for the anticipated use of funds for project activities for the next six months.***
- ***Appropriate documentation to verify expenses, including receipts or invoices. See Addendum 5.***

Bank statements can be found in Addendum 3.



We did receive unexpected financial support from the Type 1 Diabetes Experience Support Group located in Lynchburg, VA. This is outside the geographic boundary of the original proposal and has allowed us to purchase additional licenses for other school districts. This is reflected in the income and expense report. Due to this additional funding source, we were able to use all of our LCIF funds for the purchase of licenses. The Virginia Diabetes Council has provided an individual at no additional cost to assist the Program Manager in recruitment and follow-up with all school districts across the state. With these donations of funds and time, we were able to use all of our LCIF, District 24-L, and matching funds for the purchase of licenses and increase our impact across the entire state.

**Budget 2022-23**

<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
Lions 24-L	\$2,500	\$6,600/\$33 for 200 new	Salus Licenses (new)	\$6,600	New licenses @ \$33/year
		\$12,705/\$23.10 for 550 renewal	Salus Licenses (renewal)	\$12,705	Renewal licenses @ \$23.10/year
			Total for Licenses	\$19,305	
VA ADCES	\$1,250		Administrative expenses	\$250	Review of data, awarding licenses, tracking data, completing reports
VDC	\$1,250		Promotional material	\$195	brochures
LCIF	\$15,000		Travel, Presentations	\$250	Travel
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>			<b>\$20,000</b>	





**Financial Report**

<b>2022-23</b>	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
Lions 24-L	\$2,500		250 new licenses at \$33 each	Salus Licenses-new	\$8,250.00	New licenses\$33/year
VA ADCES	\$1,250		725 renewals at \$23.10 each	Salus Licenses-renewals	\$16,747.50	Renewal licenses-\$23.10/year
VDC	\$1,250			Administrative expenses		
LCIF	\$15,000					
Lions Clubs Adopted Schools	\$775.40			Promotional material		
Funds from Type 1 Diabetes	\$7,500			Travel, Presentations		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,275.40</b>				<b>\$24,997.50</b>	



### **LCIF Identification and Project Publicity**

*Provide action photos of the project beneficiaries and photos of the grant-funded project, materials/building (if applicable), as well as copies of any publicity received about the project. For all infrastructure development projects, include photos confirming signage is in place acknowledging grant support from LCIF.*

## **Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star**

### **Lions Clubs grants provide diabetes education for 10,000 school nurses and school personnel**

Dec 3, 2022

Diabetes in youth, both type 1 and type 2, are on the rise, and studies show, this trend is expected to continue. School nurses and school staff alike need to be aware of the needs of children with diabetes and be prepared to meet those needs in the education environment. Laws governing this are set by both the federal government and the Code of Virginia.

The Virginia Code requires that training be offered to school staff who care for students with diabetes. It was recognized that not all schools had access to quality training due to geographic location or limited resources. Changes in diabetic treatment/regimens as well as advancing new technologies make it especially important that quality training be made available.

The Virginia Diabetes Council Schools Committee recognized this need and, in partnership with like-interest community groups, has successfully launched a diabetes e-learning program, "Lions Empowering and Aiding Regional Nurses in Schools," that is now being used by school divisions throughout the commonwealth. With financial grant support of the Lions Club International and Lions Clubs in District 24L, the pilot program began in the 2019–20 school year. Initially, District 24L Lions Club enrolled 2,872 participants and as of October 2022, has enrolled 10,000 participants. Nine hundred seventy-five schools are enrolled in the program with 70 school districts participating, as well as private and parochial schools.

This training program offers current information about diabetes and best practices for the care of students living with diabetes. Salus Education's "Diabetes Care at School: Bridging the Gap" is a comprehensive program that addresses basic diabetes awareness information for the school staff, as well as in-depth, technical information directed to those who have responsibility of the child



during school activities. Continuing education credits for nurses and school personnel are available. The training has been approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing.

Those completing the training include administrators, nurses, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, athletic directors, trainers, coaches, choir and band directors, teachers and office staff. Some schools have adopted the program and include it as part of their orientation. Some make the training mandatory annually.

The program has been successful even beyond the walls of the schools. Participants have said they have a better understanding of their own diabetes and their family members and are very glad they took the training.

Providing feedback about the program, a user responded, "I think this was very useful and designed with the learner in mind. Because something like diabetes is life threatening, the subject can be scary to ask questions or to take the time to really understand. This self-paced computer program lowered my level of stress while allowing me to review and study at a pace comfortable to me."

Virginia Diabetes Council partners include Lions Clubs International, Lions Clubs of District 24L, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Coordinating Body of Diabetes Care.

[Lions Clubs grants provide diabetes education for 10,000 school nurses and school personnel \(fredericksburg.com\)](http://fredericksburg.com)

### **Report Endorsement**

A majority of Lions of Virginia District 24-L Cabinet approved the year-end Diabetes Grant Report for Phase 3 of Lions Empowering and Aiding Regional Nurses in Schools (LEARNS) by email on July 25 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Gold".

Kathleen Gold  
LEARNS Project Manager

**Approved:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donalda M. Lovelace".

Donalda M. Lovelace  
District Governor 24-L  
Lions of Virginia