



Sun Smart Schools Maintenance Budget Tips

What is the budget for?

When becoming a Sun Smart School, Nevada Cancer Coalition donated automatic sunscreen dispensers and cases of sunscreen to your school. Depending on the school or district, additional items such as replacement batteries and pole mounts were also donated. In accepting those resources to become a Sun Smart School, the school or district agreed to regularly maintain the dispensers, including:

- Cleaning sunscreen spills
- Refilling sunscreen as needed
- Replacing batteries as needed

As such, after the initial donation, it is up to the school to pay for items associated with dispenser upkeep, including reorder sunscreen refills, replacement batteries, and any additional resources needed. Since the school has agreed to take on this responsibility as a Sun Smart Schools program participant, having a budget is essential to making the necessary purchases to successfully maintain the program. While we know that budgeting for additional resources can cause some concern, we have created this list of possible budget solutions to help your school be even more successful in preventing skin cancer among Nevadan students and educators.

Potential School-Level Budgets?

Since budget types and availability can greatly range from school to school and district to district, we have compiled a list of potential budgets to help you figure out what budget will work best for your school.

Health Services Budget

Many of our Sun Smart Schools program liaisons are school nurses. They are often in charge of maintaining the dispensers, reordering supplies, and manage the Sun Smart Schools curriculum materials for their schools. Incorporating program maintenance costs into the school's Health Services Budget can be an easy budget solution.

Physical Education Department Budget

Another possible budget solution for maintaining the sunscreen dispensers at your facility is the Physical Education Department budget. Sunscreen dispensers are often placed in or near the gymnasium as well as exits leading to sports fields and playgrounds. Along with nurses, program liaisons often work in the P.E. Department and help maintain the program at their schools. Utilizing the P.E. Department budget to reorder supplies to ensure the sunscreen dispensers are always ready for use may be a great choice for your school.

Administration Budget

Principal Administrative Staff often serve as the program liaisons and take on the responsibility of maintaining the sunscreen dispensers at their school. An easy way to incorporate program maintenance costs into a budget is to factor it in with an administration-level budget.

Custodial/School Maintenance Budget

Sharing responsibility of maintaining the dispensers with custodial personnel is a common practice in some of our participating schools. Additionally, falling under the scope of maintenance, utilizing the custodial/school maintenance budget to cover program costs may serve as the best option for your school.

Potential External Funding?

If school-level budget options do not fit the bill for your school's program maintenance needs, there are some external funding sources that may cover the costs on your school's behalf.

PTO/PTA Funding

While some PTOs are an official part of the school system, reaching out to your local PTO or PTA may be a viable option in funding sunscreen dispenser maintenance costs. Since these organizations often work closely with schools to supplement and enrich the educational experience, asking them to help you reduce the risk of skin cancer among your students through program budgeting assistance may be a great option for you school.

Local Business Sponsorship

While this option may require a bit more work to set up initially, partnering with a local business to fund ongoing program maintenance costs can be beneficial. Working with a parent's company or a business that has been a strong contributor to your school's endeavors can help you find additional funding for your sunscreen dispenser maintenance needs.

Questions or Feedback?

Have you found a budget or funding technique that has been especially successful for maintaining the Sun Smart Schools program at your school? Please let us know! We love hearing how participating schools have tailored the program to best fit their individual school's needs.

Still unsure of how to budget for ongoing Sun Smart Schools program maintenance costs? Give us a call at **775-451-1670 ext. 103** or email us at christine@nevadacancercoalition.org and we can discuss your budget-related concerns,