Austin Public Health Mini-Grants: Investing in Lasting Health for Travis County

Chronic diseases are responsible for over half of all deaths in Travis County. This grave statistic highlights the urgent need for action, but there's hope: many of these diseases are preventable. **Austin Public Health (APH)** is committed to helping our community make lasting, healthy changes.

APH is excited to announce its Mini-Grant program for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. This program offers grants of up to **$2,500** to eligible organizations dedicated to promoting healthy living and addressing health disparities in Austin and Travis County. We are specifically looking for projects that create **lasting health change** and build sustainable solutions within the community.

Focus on Sustainable Impact

We want your project to make a lasting difference. Your idea should help people learn healthy habits and create things that support those habits over time.

For example, a community garden doesn't just give out food for one year. It can provide fresh vegetables and a place to exercise for as long as it's cared for.

Topic Areas

Your project must be about one or more of these five topics:

- Active Living (like physical activity)
- Community Gardens
- Tobacco-free Living
- Healthy Eating and Food Access
- Breastfeeding/Chestfeeding Support

Here are some examples of projects that create lasting change:

- **Active Living:** Add signs or equipment to a space for your organization or school, as well as providing shade structures like sails over a playground or trees along a walking path, to facilitate physical activity for years.
- **Healthy Eating:** Start a program at a school to teach kids about healthy eating, training on healthy eating policy, or a worksite health education program that will continue year after year.
- **Healthy Food Access:** Build, expand, or improve a food pantry through shelving or food storage equipment to make sure they always have healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables.
- **Breastfeeding Support:** Create a new lactation room or lactation policy at a workplace or organization that will be there for all future community members and employees.
- **Community Gardens:** Build, expand, or improve a garden that will give people fresh food, herbs, or a relaxation area that motivates people to be outside throughout the seasons.
- **Tobacco-free Living:** Implement a policy at a company or apartment building, improve the clinic referral system to tobacco quit resources, or create a youth tobacco-free ambassador program at a school that supports tobacco-free living long-term.

Eligibility and Requirements

Who Can Apply?

We welcome applications from organizations committed to making a lasting difference in Travis County:

- **Nonprofit organizations**, including faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and childcare centers.
- **Tax-exempt organizations** under Sections 501(c)(3) or 170(b)(1)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code and units of government.
- **Public Schools and universities.**
- **Government entities.**

Please note: Organizations can apply in multiple focus areas, but will only be awarded one grant of up to $2,500. Past Mini-Grant award winners are not eligible to receive the grant two years in a row. For example, if you received this grant last year, you are not eligible to apply this year.

What are the Requirements?

To be considered for a mini grant, your project must:

- Be provided within **Austin and/or Travis County**.
- Start on or after **January 1, 2027**, and conclude by or on **August 1, 2027**.
- Focus on reaching individuals at greater risk of chronic disease in **vulnerable populations**. These include, but are not limited to, low-income populations, LGBTQ+ communities, older adults, people living with disabilities, and various racial/ethnic groups.
- Align with one or more of the five health focus topic areas listed above.

Receiving Funds:

Mini-grant funds are provided through a **cost-reimbursement process** as required by the City of Austin. This means your organization will pay out-of-pocket for all project costs incurred during the project timeline. Reimbursement will follow project completion and the timely submission of all required reporting documents, including receipts and logs.

To receive funds, all awarded organizations **must be registered vendors with the City of Austin**. If you have questions about vendor registration or aren't sure if your agency is registered, please email MiniGrant@austintexas.gov.

Sharing Results and Project Success:

Upon project completion, awarded organizations are required to submit a final, **1-page program summary**. This summary is your opportunity to share pictures of your project and highlight success stories and lessons learned. This report must be submitted along with the Payment Request and Expenditure Report Forms to receive reimbursement.

Funds CANNOT be used for:

- Awards, cash prizes, gift cards, contributions, or donations.
- Food or drinks, except when used for teaching or educational purposes (e.g., a cooking demonstration).
- Community Refrigerators
- One-time event projects (such as health fairs and marathons), as these do not promote sustained change.
- Medications, supplements, and general medical equipment (excluding AEDs, blood pressure monitors, and breast pumps).
- Direct Health Care Services and care.
- Operating costs are not directly part of this project/indirect costs.
- Travel costs, including mileage.

Application Timeline and Process

Important Dates:

- **Open applications:** Wednesday, October 1, 2026, at 12:00 AM Central Standard Time (CST)
- **Deadline for applications:** Friday, October 23, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Standard Time (CST)
- **Award notice:** By Friday, December 18, 2026
- **Project must be complete by:** Sunday, August 1, 2027
- **Required grant close-out documents must be received by:** Sunday, August 1, 2027

Application Review:

The Mini-grant panel will thoroughly review each application, focusing on four key areas:

- **Demonstrated Need:** How the project addresses a clear community need.
- **Sustainable Community Change:** The project's potential to create lasting positive change.
- **Health Impact:** The overall effect the project will have on community health.
- **Addressing Health Disparities:** The project's emphasis on reducing health disparities—preventable differences in health outcomes experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

Need Assistance?

Are you new to grant applications or need additional help? **Free technical assistance** is available! We can answer basic grant questions and provide guidance on creating Tobacco Policies and Lactation Rooms. Email MiniGrant@austintexas.gov to set up a meeting before you apply.