Ripley County Health Department
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Ripley County Health Department
2026 Mini-Grant
Application Instructions

Overview

The Ripley County Health Department is pleased to commence the 2026 Ripley County Health Department Mini-Grant Program. This opportunity is made possible through Health First Indiana. The 2026 Mini-Grant Program will support initiatives that improve public health outcomes for Ripley County residents in accordance with HFI core service priorities.

Applicant Eligibility

Priority applicants include:

- Units of government including schools
- Nonprofit organizations serving Ripley County residents
- Ripley County organizations that serve children, seniors, disabled individuals, or high-risk individuals

Public Health Priorities

The 2026 Ripley County Health Department Mini-Grant Program will limit funding to the following priorities:

1. Chronic Disease Prevention Through Exercise, Nutrition, and Transportation

Proposed Programs must include all of the following:

- Promote or create access to physical activity or healthy eating
- Target populations that do not identify as physically active or healthy eaters
- Include accommodations or inclusive participation opportunities for individuals with disabilities or mobility impairments
- Reduce existing barriers to participation such as transportation, accessibility, affordability, or lack of education

Samples initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Adaptive fitness activities for seniors
- Community game nights for seniors
- Inter-school vegetable garden competition
- Community nutrition workshops

- Community walking programs
- Accessible indoor or outdoor recreational programming
- Senior School Bus Route for Adult Daycare
- Community garden, farm to table, or healthy food access projects
- Structural modifications to make existing infrastructure more inclusive
- Marketing strategies to reach target audiences

2. Child Care and School Health and Safety Initiatives

Programs must provide services or education to one or more of the following:

- licensed child care centers
- unlicensed registered ministries
- in-home daycare providers
- schools

Programs must include all of the following:

- demonstrate inclusiveness for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities

Priority will be given to underserved child care or school organizations.

Programs must relate to one or more of the following:

- Nutrition or healthy meal practices for infants, toddlers, and children
- Safe sleep education and practices for infants
- Infant and child wellness through early screening and intervention
- Physical activity for toddlers and children

Sample initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Safe sleep training sessions for staff
- Distribution of educational materials for staff or parents
- Nutrition planning assistance for child care staff or parents
- Early intervention through health screenings
- Collaborative partnership between child care staff or educators and parents to achieve healthy outcomes

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following information:

1. Organization name and contact information
2. Whether the organization is a unit of government, nonprofit organization, or private for-profit company
3. Point of contact for the application and signatory on contract
4. Point of contact for the person who will submit quarterly data if different from applicant
5. A narrative description of the proposed project along with project goals
6. Description on how the proposed project aligns with the funding priorities
7. Intended target population

8. Description of how the program will be inclusive of individuals with disabilities or mobility impairments
9. For chronic disease proposals, a description of how the project will engage populations that do not currently identify as physically active or healthy eaters
10. For daycare or school proposals, a description on which daycares or schools will be served.
11. Timeline for implementation
12. Plan for data collection and reporting
13. Detailed budget with intended program expenditures, which will be uploaded as a separate document

Required Data Reporting

Applications must clearly identify:

- How many participants the project is expected to serve
- How program outcomes will be measured
- What data will be collected and submitted

Examples of reportable data may include but are not limited to:

- Number of participants attending programs
- Number of educational sessions provided
- Number of childcare providers or educators trained
- Pre- and post-survey results
- Accessibility accommodations provided
- Proofs of Purchases

All mini-grant recipients are required to submit quarterly reports to the Ripley County Health Department. If awarded funding, applicants must accept the proposed reporting terms before funding will be dispersed.

Non-Allowable Expenses

The budgeted expenditures will be reviewed for compliance with IC 16-46-10-3. The following expenses are not allowed under this mini-grant:

- Personal items such as clothing or meals
- Alcoholic beverages
- Overpayments on program supplies
- Certain capital purchases such as office furniture, vehicles, or real-estate
- Unrestricted pass-through funding to other individuals or organizations, such as scholarships or donations, that do not contribute to the defined and measurable outcomes
- Political lobbying or other activity to influence public policy, political candidates, or election results

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than August 31, 2026.

How to Submit

Application should be submitted by completing the application form and attaching the required budget.

Link: Ripley County Health Department 2026 Mini Grant Application – Fill out form
URL: https://forms.office.com/r/VHmPGDhtwf

Application Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on a rubric based on:

- Alignment with funding priorities
- Inclusiveness and accessibility for disabled, mobility impaired, or high-risk populations
- Address existing barriers to healthy eating, physical activity, or wellness
- Organizational capacity to reach target populations
- Organizational capacity to sustain programing
- Overall long-term community impact
- While both are important, initiatives that actively educate and engage target populations in healthy living will be preferred over educational services offered only to staff
- Organizational capacity to collect and report data

If Your Program Is Selected For Funding

Programs selected for funding will receive a tentative award letter. Before funding can be awarded, the proposed project must complete a 30-day public review period. If the program successfully completes the public review process, a contract will be issued. Funds will be dispersed only after both parties agree to and sign the contract terms.

Funded programs will be required to submit at least four quarterly reports. For programs with a delayed start date, the reporting schedule may be extended in accordance with the terms outlined in the contract.

Questions

Submit questions to:

Tara M. Briggs, Administrator
Ripley County Health Department
healthadmin@ripleycounty.in.gov