

Try This minigrant Deadline: October 18

Grants of up to \$3,000 for Healthy-Community Projects

Lots more information at <http://trythiswv.com/minigrants>

Try This awards up to \$3,000 to local teams who want to create healthy-community projects that make it easier to get healthy food or to be physically active in their communities. Since 2014, Try This has distributed more than \$750,000 to 336 community teams from all regions of West Virginia. Try This is building a movement for a healthier West Virginia, and you can be part of it!

Start getting your team together now. Normally, if three of your team come to the Try This conference in June (a great event), you are eligible to apply for a grant you can use in your own backyard. At the conference, teams get help with planning, setting goals and the application process

But we're in the pandemic, so most of our help will be online. We will post a schedule soon on our facebook. Whether it's online or in person, we aim to teach you what funders want in a grant. If you have a successful Try This project, bigger funders will consider that part of a good track record for your team..



- **To be funded, your team must:**
 - include people from at least three community organizations, schools, businesses or groups, to ensure broad community support. No one-agency projects will be funded.
 - propose projects that will last. No one-day events.
 - use the Try This long-range planning tool to review a range of healthy lifestyle priorities for their community, inventorying what they've already done, prioritizing new work.
 - Identify long-term goals and pledge to set a good example with healthy food at their events

The application is posted on the Try This conference page (<http://trythiswv.com/minigrants>). Download it now, read through it, and start thinking about the changes you could make in your own community.

An example: If a community decided they wanted to build a small hightunnel greenhouse to feed a food pantry, the community team might include the farmers market, the food pantry, the town government, and a local group that pledged to tend it.

There is a tutorial online that walks you through the application process, page by page, at <http://trythiswv.com/minigrants>. On the application, you will tell us how your project will help your community, and you'll include letters from community partners, telling what they will do (resources, donations, etc.) to help make the project happen.

The application deadline is October 18th. We encourage your team to start soon, so you have time to revise.

To get ideas about projects you could do - look at the Try This Web site, www.trythiswv.com. It is basically an online catalogue of dozens of projects you could try in your community. The site makes it easy to look at choices and find resources. And it's full of stories about ingenious projects West Virginians have done. You'll go away inspired.

The application is competitive. Try This has limited funds. The teams that receive a mini-grant award will be sent their check by the end of November. Those communities will also have a "helper," a person who checks in with you to see if you've run into any roadblocks or makes sure you get answers to your questions..

This is a great team-building opportunity.

Use the conference and the mini-grant process to build a local team dedicated to creating a healthier community!

Who should be on my community team? First, your team should not all come from one agency or group. Healthy community-building is too big a job for any one agency, so we want to see team members come from a variety of community groups. Try This promotes collaboration.

Try This minigrants can help build new leaders. We look to see if there are people on the team who are potential leaders, people who have never written a grant or been on a team before. Be sure to recruit at least one new potential leader for your team. It's good for your community, and it will get you extra points.



Step back and look at the big picture. Who would you like to work with over the long haul? You want people who are passionate about helping people be healthy. It can be a secretary or an agency head, a retired person or a teenager. One person might work for the schools, another be a pastor, another be a business person. Most of all, it should be people who care. They should recognize that this has to be a whole-community effort and be willing to work across agencies. One agency or local government can't do this job alone.

This year, because we are in a pandemic, we will require that you add a sheet to your application that tells 1) (how your project will ease the pain for the pandemic in your community and (2) what your socially distancing plan is.



Other questions that might help you plan: Who do you want to work with over the long haul, for healthier lifestyles? Who is already trying? Who's passionate about this? Who do you *wish* would get interested? Is there a local official you wish would see fitness as economic development? Who has the skills or access you need? Who has time to devote to this?

You can define "community" as a region, a town, a neighborhood. Your choice.

Got more questions? Email trythiswv@gmail.com Look at www.trythiswv.com/minigrants. It's packed with information, including lists and descriptions of all minigrant projects Try This ever funded.

Join the Try This West Virginia facebook group. Post about what's going on in your community!

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