

## **Request for Applications (RFA)**

### ***Healthy Choices Mini Grant Opportunity***

### ***Rapid Response Funding for Healthy Eating and Active Living***

**Applications Open:** June 16, 2026 || **Applications Due:** September 2, 2026 by 11:59pm EST

**Number of Awards:** Up to 2 per organization. || **Maximum per Award:** \$1,500

[APPLY HERE](#)

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>Application Opens</b>	June 16, 2026
<b>Application Due</b>	September 2nd, 2026 by 11:59pm EST  *Application accepted on a rolling basis until funds expended. See Cycle deadlines below.

#### **PURPOSE OF RFA**

This RFA is part of the Healthy Choices Project funded by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and managed by the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health at Case Western Reserve University. In this RFA, we will select Ohio-based organizations who are eligible to receive up to two mini-grants. If you are applying for a network of organizations, you can apply for no more than 25 sites in one application (i.e., multiple farmers markets or food pantries). Mini grants will support implementation and evaluation of strategies that make environments match healthy eating and active living messages by making the healthy choice the easy choice in the places where we live, work, learn, and play. This funding will provide one-time support for implementing healthy eating or active living policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) strategies in food pantries, farmers markets, early childcare centers, K12 schools, and community gardens that serve populations receiving SNAP or eligible to receive SNAP. The goal of these grants is to enhance local capacity to implement PSE strategies designed to increase access to healthy foods, promote healthy food choices, and/or promote active living among SNAP consumers.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for a mini grant.

- Application is for healthy eating and activity PSE strategies in one of the following settings: food pantries, farmers markets, K-12 schools, early childcare centers, and community gardens.
- Organization(s) receiving mini grant funds must be located in a county in Ohio with at least 10% of the population receiving SNAP benefits. Eligible counties are listed below.
- The proposed PSE strategy will serve those who are eligible for or currently receive SNAP.
- The total requested budget is \$1,500 or less.
- The proposed PSE strategy is able to be implemented by September 21st, 2026.
- The applicant agrees to share required information for promotion of the project.
- The applicant agrees to complete evaluation materials.

Adams	Defiance	Lawrence	Pickaway
Allen	Erie	Licking	Pike
Ashtabula	Fairfield	Logan	Preble
Athens	Fayette	Lorain	Richland
Belmont	Franklin	Lucas	Ross
Brown	Gallia	Madison	Sandusky
Butler	Guernsey	Mahoning	Scioto
Carroll	Hamilton	Marion	Seneca
Champaign	Hardin	Meigs	Stark
Clark	Harrison	Monroe	Summit
Clinton	Highland	Montgomery	Trumbull
Columbiana	Hocking	Morgan	Tuscarawas
Coshocton	Huron	Muskingum	Vinton
Crawford	Jackson	Paulding	Washington
Cuyahoga	Jefferson	Perry	Williams
			Wyandot

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR MINI GRANT AWARDS**

Mini grants will provide a one-time investment of \$1,500 per site. Up to two mini-grants may be awarded to each organization. Recipients must complete the following during the award timeframe (rolling start date – September 30th, 2026).

- Implement the approved PSE strategy.
- Agree to be identified in marketing and promotional materials about the Healthy Choices Project.
- Create a sustainability plan for the strategy beyond the short-term award.
- Complete evaluation materials by September 21st, 2026, including an impact statement and a success story related to the PSE strategy.

## **BUDGET**

The maximum award for this one-time investment is \$1,500 (before tax) per site with a maximum of 25 total sites per organization for a total of \$37,500. Each site award has the option for an additional \$50 to cover shipping costs. Therefore, the maximum award is \$1500 + \$50 = \$1550 (if shipping costs are required).

There will not be a transfer of funds from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to the organization. Instead, CWRU will purchase the requested printing, supplies, and/or materials on behalf of the organization and will have these shipped to the organization site.

### **Allowable Costs**

- Printing to aid in the promotion of healthy eating or active living initiatives
  - All printing services will be ordered by the Mary Ann Swetland Center through FedEx. The applicant will supply needed information about requested printing materials (i.e., number of units, design files, etc.)
- Food and materials for taste testing of healthy foods
- Cooking, physical activity, or garden supplies and materials
- Small incentives (e.g., shopping bag, cooking supplies) to encourage participation in a PSE strategy (less than \$3.00 per person)

### **Unallowable Costs**

- Household groceries, including the costs for a nutrition incentive
- Technology
- Lobbying
- Travel
- Personnel

## **FAQs**

**Can I apply for more than one PSE Area?** Yes. If you are applying for mini grants in more than one PSE area (i.e., food pantries and farmers markets), you must complete a separate application for each strategy.

**How much funding is allowed per mini grant?** Each mini grant is for up to \$1,500. The award is to purchase a service (i.e., printing) or product. A list of possible services and products are available in the budget template. There will not be a transfer of funds from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) to the organization. Instead, CWRU will purchase the requested printing, supplies, and/or materials on behalf of the organization and will have these shipped to the organization site.

**Can I apply for more than one site?** Yes. If you are applying for one strategy that includes the same service or product with multiple sites (i.e., multiple farmers markets or schools), you do NOT need to complete separate applications for each site. However, if you are applying for different services or products for each site (i.e., site 1 requires garden supplies and site 2 requires a tent), then you should submit two separate applications.

**How many mini grants can one organization receive?** Our goal is to distribute funding across all prioritized counties in Ohio. One organization can receive up to two mini grants for two different PSE strategies at their organization for a maximum of \$3,000. These can be two strategies within the same topic area, such as a physical education and school garden intervention in K12 schools, or two strategies under different topic areas, such as food pantry and farmers markets. A convening organization (e.g., Produce Perks Midwest, Greater Cleveland Food Bank) may apply for up to 25 sites in one mini grant application for a maximum of \$37,500.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?** Please email [psereadi@case.edu](mailto:psereadi@case.edu) with questions. Responses will be sent within 2 business days of your request.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

Submit one application per PSE strategy outlining your organization's strategy, reach, and budget. Applications that meet the minimum requirements will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all funds are expended. Early application is encouraged to increase the likelihood of funding. The application portal will close once all funds are expended. The latest date to apply is Wednesday, September 2nd at 11:59PM, if funds remain available. Submit all requested materials online via [this link](#) by 11:59pm EST on the application submission due date for the relevant cycle. Applications received after the cycle due date will be reviewed in the next cycle.

Mini Grant Cycle	Application Submission Due Date	Application Award Date
------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------

Cycle 1	June 24th	June 30th
Cycle 2	July 8th	July 17th
Cycle 3	July 22nd	July 31st
Cycle 4	August 5th	August 14th
Cycle 5	August 19th	August 28th
Cycle 6	September 2nd	September 11th

**APPLICATION COMPONENTS**

Please note, we encourage you to complete all application materials in a separate document and then copy and paste into the application itself. You will not be able to go back and edit your application after leaving the webpage, or after submission.

If you have any questions or need to delete an application, please email [psereadi@case.edu](mailto:psereadi@case.edu).

**Part 1. Contact Information:**

Primary Applicant (organization receiving the mini-grant)

- Name of organization applying
- Address of organization applying (include mailing and physical address if different)
- Name, title, phone number, and email of the main point of contact

Partner Site(s)

- Name of site (e.g. farmers market, food pantry, school, etc)
- Address of site (include mailing and physical address if different)
- Name, title, phone number, and email of the main point of contact for site

**Part 2. Eligibility Requirements**

The following questions confirm eligibility for this award. If an applicant answers NO for any of these questions, then they are not eligible.

1. Will the PSE serve people who are eligible for or currently receive SNAP?	Yes	No
2. Is the total requested budget \$1,500 or less (not including an optional \$50 for shipping costs)?	Yes	No

3. Is the organization located in an eligible county?	Yes	No
4. Is the PSE strategy able to be implemented within the project cycle?	Yes	No
5. Does the applicant agree to share required information for promotion of the PSE mini-grant project?	Yes	No
6. Does the applicant agree to complete evaluation materials including an impact statement and success story?	Yes	No
7. Is the proposed project in one of the approved PSE topic areas?	Yes	No

### **Part 3. Project Narrative**

- **Program Information**

- What type of PSE strategy are you applying for?
  - How many sites will the strategy include?
- What is the goal of the PSE strategy?
- Describe and provide evidence of the need for the PSE strategy.
- What is your past experience related to the PSE strategy?
- Briefly describe the PSE strategy plan, including the timeline for implementation.
- Provide a list of collaborating partners (if any).

- A. Program Reach**

- Who is the targeted audience? (Select from list)
- What percentage or total number of the audience that will benefit from this PSE strategy is likely to be receiving SNAP or is SNAP eligible?
- What is the estimated reach of the PSE strategy across all the sites included in this application?

- C. Sustainability**

- Describe how the PSE strategy will be sustained beyond mini-grant funding.

- D. Budget**

- Provide a project budget (include supply name, cost per unit, link to website to purchase, number of units needed, and total cost). The budget must be submitted using the required [budget template](#). A list of suggested items is included in the budget template. We strongly encourage applicants to select items from the existing list. If other items are needed, provide

relevant information about these new items in the budget template. These other items will be considered during the review process.

**Contact at [psereadi@case.edu](mailto:psereadi@case.edu) if you have questions.**