

ATTN: Do not submit this document. It is for reference only when you are filling out the online application. You can copy and paste your answers from here to the online application if you like.

2026 Try This WV Minigrant & Youth Leadership Minigrant Application

Welcome! We are glad you want to apply for a minigrant to help with your healthy community project.

Application Deadline: July 30, 2026, 11:59 p.m.- Youth Leadership Minigrants are considered on a rolling basis and can be submitted year-round!

Before You Begin: Filling out this application should be the last step of the process. If you have not already done so, please download the Try This WV Minigrant packet from our website. Use the minigrant checklist to ensure you have completed all pre-application steps.

You can also set up a consultation with Brittney Barlett by emailing director@trythiswv.com or scheduling directly into her calendar: calendar.app.google/y9BeD8kKmPDpRVUm7

Questions: If you have questions related to this online application form, please email trythiswv@gmail.com. Please put "Application Question" in the subject line.

Minigrant Project Title: (5 words or fewer) *

KEMP Playground Safety Surface Expansion

Did you have a conversation with Brittney Barlett, another member of the Try This team, or brainstorm your project idea at a Try This event before applying? (not required, but recommended!) **Yes**

What county/counties will your project serve?

Kanawha County

What community/ies will your project serve? (Ex: open to the public, elementary students at a specific school, low-income folks, hikers, etc.)

Youth

Project Leader Name

First Name Last Name

Joseph Cook

Name of person completing this application if different from the Project Leader:

Last Name First Name

What is the best way to contact you with questions about this application? If Email, put the email address. If Phone, put the Phone number.

jcook@greylockenergy.com

Teams of youth ages 13-22 are eligible to apply for a Youth Leadership Minigrant. All other projects are considered Traditional Minigrants. What kind of Try This Minigrant are you applying for? *

☒ Traditional Minigrants

Contact Information

Project Leaders Email: jcook@greylockenergy.com

Project Leaders Secondary Email: pointlickpark@gmail.com

Project Leaders Phone Number: 304-550-8240

Project Leaders Secondary Phone Number: 304-550-4706

Did you have a conversation with Brittney Barlett, another member of the Try This team, or brainstorm your project idea at a Try This event before applying? (not required, but recommended!) Yes

Fiscal Agent/Sponsor

The legal name of the organization that will be the Fiscal Agent/Sponsor for this minigrant. (The name on the check)

Parents Auxiliary Inc.

Full Address of the Fiscal Agent/Sponsor. The Check will be mailed here.

714 Pointlick Terrace Charleston WV 25306

Fiscal agent/sponsor Email

jcook@greylockenergy.com

Fiscal agent/sponsor Phone Number

304-550-8240

Fiscal agent/sponsor Website

<https://pointlickpark.wixsite.com/website>

Nonprofit Federal EIN Tax ID # for the fiscal sponsor:

47-2265397

By checking this box, you certify that the 501(c)3 non-profit organization listed above has agreed to receive on behalf of this minigrant project. *

The Fiscal Agent/Sponsor listed above has promised to receive and distribute the funds to the minigrant project. check

Budget

Total dollar amount requested from Try This (between \$500 and \$3000):

Please note that the only budget that will be accepted is the official Try This WV minigrant budget spreadsheet. You can download the budget spreadsheet by clicking here, find it on our website at trythiswv.org/how-to-apply, or get it directly from the Try This WV Minigrant packet.

You will upload your budget here. \$5520

Project Description

Your project is addressing a community need. How did you and your team identify this need in your community?

A few years ago when our team came together we decided we wanted to make our park accessible to all. We immediately started replacing equipment so children of all abilities could play together with their peers. Over the years we have installed such equipment and started replacing the pea gravel we had for a fall service because children in wheel chairs would not be able to get to the equipment easily. Over the last three years we have installed three sections and this fourth section will complete the area.

Your project is likely a building block in a bigger long-term goal for your community. What is that bigger dream? (Ex: "All Clay County children should have a safe place to run and play.")

Our bigger dream is that every child in our community—regardless of ability, age, or background—has a safe, accessible, and welcoming place to play, connect, and grow.

We envision a fully inclusive park where children can move freely between play structures without barriers, where caregivers can feel confident in safety, and where families can gather and build relationships across the community.

This project is one step toward completing that vision by ensuring the entire playground area, including the swings, has safe, accessible surfacing that allows all children to participate fully and equally in play.

Describe your project in narrative form. This is the "story" of what you will be doing. Tell us what you want to do and how you will do it, step by step. Try to think chronologically about who you will be involved with and serving, and what your project looks like from start to finish. (This should be your longest answer in the application!)

Our project will complete a critical safety improvement in one area of our park by installing protective safety surfacing in the swing area of our playground. This is part of an ongoing community effort to improve safety and accessibility within this specific play space.

A few years ago, our park team came together with the goal of making this playground more accessible to all children. We recognized that the existing ground surface—pea gravel—created barriers for children using wheelchairs or mobility devices and made it difficult for many children to move safely throughout the play area.

In response, we began upgrading the playground in phases. Over time, we have replaced portions of the play area with inclusive equipment and installed safer, more accessible surfacing in other sections of the playground. These improvements have made a meaningful difference in how children of all abilities are able to access and enjoy the equipment in those areas.

However, the swing area still has not been upgraded with the same safety surfacing. While the swing equipment is actively used and valued by the community, the current ground surface does not provide the same level of safety or accessibility as the rest of the improved areas.

If awarded this minigrant, we will focus specifically on preparing the swing area and installing approved safety surfacing in that location. This will include site preparation, removal or modification of the existing ground surface as needed, and installation of a compliant safety surface designed to reduce injury risk and improve accessibility.

Have you or other members of your team attended a Try This WV Regional Gathering ZOOM event, an in-person event, the Youth Summit, or the annual Conference? If so, please elaborate (attendance is not required!): **No I have not. My work days are pretty busy so its not always possible to be free when the events are scheduled**

SMART Objectives

SMART Objectives can be difficult - please try your best, and the Try This team will work with you to finalize these if your project reaches the funding stage!

List 3-5 measurable objectives for your project in the coming year. These should identify who is doing it, what is being done, how it's being measured, and when it will be completed.

Each objective should contain the following:

Specific: Goals need to be specific. If they are too broad, they are just "big ideas" and will remain just that, big ideas.

Measurable: Goals must be stated in quantifiable terms; otherwise, they're only good intentions.

Measurable goals facilitate management, planning, implementation, and control.

Attainable: Goals must inspire people to aim high but not be out of reach. Goals must be achievable, or they're a set-up for failure. Set goals you know your team can accomplish.

Realistic/Relevant: Goals must require a realistic look at the desired outcome and the process. Think: Given our resources, can we really do this?

Time-Bound: With reference to time, your goals must include a timeline of when your goals should be accomplished.

Example: The volunteer team will build one new 20' X 12' high-tunnel greenhouse by October 2022.

Example: John Doe will supply at least 400 lbs of fruits and vegetables to the Lewis County Food Pantry by August 15, 2022.

SMART Objective 1: Over the 12-month grant period, utilize the \$3,000 funding to host 12 monthly themed swim and learns that serve at least 150 total participants, including Head Start families, Senior Center members, and the public, as verified by monthly registration logs.

SMART Objective 2: Deliver 12 distinct health-themed pool lessons featuring at least 6 different local community helpers to teach relevant wellness and safety skills, documented by monthly event flyers and speaker schedules.

SMART Objective 3: Ensure at least 50% of total event attendance is comprised of directly targeted referrals from EACHS Head Start and the Hardy County Senior Center, fostering intergenerational community wellness as measured by partner-specific check-in procedure during registration.

SMART Objective 4 (optional): Achieve a 25% increase in participant knowledge regarding monthly health themes and pool safety, measured by brief, verbally administered pre- and post-lesson surveys given to a random sample of 30 participants per quarter.

SMART Objective 5 (optional)

SMART Objectives

1. Within 6 months of receiving funding, the Campbell's Creek Park volunteer team will install safety

surfacing in the swing area using grant-purchased materials, with assistance from community volunteers and partner organizations, and will document completion through before-and-after photos and a final site walkthrough by park leadership.

2. **Community partners and volunteers (including organizations such as Walmart, Greylock Energy, and TC Energy) will contribute at least 3 coordinated workdays of labor support during site preparation and installation**, with participation tracked through sign-in sheets and project logs.
3. **The park committee will ensure 100% coverage of the designated swing zone with approved safety surfacing materials purchased through the grant**, confirming installation meets project specifications through visual inspection and photographic documentation upon completion.
4. **The project team will complete all site preparation and installation support activities within the approved project timeline**, coordinating volunteers, partners, and delivery of materials without delay to ensure project completion within 6 months of award.
5. **Within 30 days of project completion, the committee will collect feedback from at least 5 park users or caregivers regarding safety and accessibility improvements in the swing area**, documented through informal interviews or comment collection during park use.

Long-Term Planning: Sustainability and Health Equity

Thinking and Acting Long-Term

Every project should be one step toward a broader, long-term community goal and thinking about how to best serve people in need. When you start a running/walking group, you move your community toward the broader goal of making it easier for people to be physically active. When you start a healthy school backpack program, you take a step toward a broader goal of reducing child hunger. All of these are also making it easier for folks without resources to find health.

To help make your project a success, we ask that you think about sustainability and health equity. Here are some definitions and questions to help you think about these things. It's okay to be unsure, just try your best - this is something Try This can help you develop throughout your project.

Sustainability: Every project needs funding, capacity, and organized effort to sustain itself. This is what sustainability means. Your team should think about what money, people, and planning you will need to keep going. Try to think about what your team would need if you wanted to continue this project in the future.

Health Equity: For Try This, equity means providing the resources and opportunities to the folks who most need it so that everyone, regardless of their situation or ability, can get healthy. That means reaching communities and growing leaders that have historically been left out of planning and leadership roles, such as racial and ethnic minorities; people experiencing poverty or homelessness; LGBTQ+ individuals; and, in West Virginia, rural, youth, and aging populations.

Try This encourages projects that involve these communities in decision-making and project leadership, as well as projects that serve these communities. One of the best things to ask yourself is: What group of people in my community is not at the table making decisions with us?

Sustainability:

This project builds on several years of ongoing community investment in improving our playground. Sustainability for this effort comes through continued volunteer leadership from our park committee and strong partnerships with local organizations such as Walmart, Greylock Energy, and TC Energy, which have historically supported both labor and community projects in our park.

Once the swing area safety surfacing is installed, ongoing maintenance will be handled through our established park volunteer structure, including regular inspections, seasonal upkeep, and coordination with the county when needed. Because this project completes a defined section of the playground, it will not require new programming or staffing to sustain—only continued stewardship of an existing community asset.

We also plan to continue seeking small grants and community support for future park improvements, ensuring that the park remains safe, welcoming, and well-maintained over time.

Health Equity:

This project supports health equity by improving safe, barrier-free access to a public playground that is used by families across our community, including children, caregivers, and older adults who accompany them.

We recognize that public parks are one of the few free, accessible spaces where children of all income levels and abilities can play together. By completing accessible safety surfacing in the swing area, we are removing one of the remaining physical barriers that can disproportionately affect children with mobility challenges or families without access to private recreation spaces.

Our park improvements are guided by feedback from local families and community members, including those who rely on the park as a primary place for physical activity and social connection. While our formal leadership structure may not include all groups equally at the decision-making table, we actively seek input through public use, informal conversations, and community events to ensure the park reflects the needs of those who use it most.

This project continues our commitment to creating a space where all children—regardless of ability or background—can safely participate in play and community life.

Do you have plans to sustain your project beyond 1 year?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain your plans to sustain your project beyond one year.

Looking beyond this project, we do have plans to extend similar safety surfacing to the baby swings in the future as additional funding becomes available. We also hope to continue improving the playground over time by adding new equipment and ensuring that any future additions are paired with appropriate safety surfacing.

How do you hope to increase health equity through your project? This could be through including individuals who are often left out in your project team, or making sure your project is reaching individuals most in need:

This project increases health equity by improving access to a safe, inclusive public playground that is available to all families in our community at no cost. Parks are one of the few shared spaces where children of different backgrounds, incomes, and abilities can come together for physical activity, social interaction, and play.

By installing safety surfacing in the swing area, we are removing a physical barrier that can disproportionately impact children with mobility challenges, caregivers assisting young children, and families who may not have access to private recreational spaces. This helps ensure that more children can safely use the same play area regardless of their physical ability or family resources.

Try This WV encourages projects to invite members of the communities they are serving to join and inform the project team.

Are any of the members of this project team a part of the group or community you hope to benefit from your project?

If yes, please tell us how you plan to utilize their abilities, input, insight, and/or institutional knowledge to enhance your project's reach and effectiveness.

If no, please tell us why.

Yes. Members of our project team are also members of the same community that will benefit from this project. Our park leadership and volunteer committee are made up of local residents, parents, and caregivers who regularly use the playground with their families and grandchildren.

Because we are both the planners and the users of the space, we bring direct lived experience to decision-making. This helps us identify barriers in real time and understand how different age groups and abilities interact with the playground. Our input is grounded in daily use of the park rather than outside observation.

We also rely heavily on ongoing informal feedback from other community members who use the park, especially parents, caregivers, and older adults who accompany children. This includes conversations during park visits, community events, and volunteer workdays.

Examples:

Yes, we have two team members who are residents of the senior living facility that we are building a garden for. We are also handing out a survey to all of the residents to find out what kinds of crops they want to grow some food

And if they have any mobility issues, we need to accommodate them.

Yes, three of our fellow team members are young people. They will inform us about what activities we will have for our youth obstacle course.

No, we do not have any healthy food box recipients on our planning team because it violates our organization's policy to have clients volunteer.

Are any of the members of this project team a part of the group or community you hope to benefit from your project?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes

Please tell us how you plan to include their abilities, input, insight, and/or knowledge to grow your project's reach and effectiveness:

We plan to include the abilities, input, insight, and lived experience of our community members throughout the project in both decision-making and implementation.

Because our project team includes local residents who regularly use the playground as parents, grandparents, and caregivers, their firsthand experience directly informs project priorities and planning. Their knowledge of how children of different ages and abilities move through the space helps us identify safety concerns and accessibility barriers that may not be visible in formal assessments.

Please tell us why your team cannot, or has chosen not, to include people directly benefiting from your project as team members: **NA**

Project Team

Please note that you need to have at least 3 people representing at least 3 organizations that are going to make meaningful contributions to this project!

“Organization” can be an actual agency, like the local health department or school, or a group, like “teenagers”

or “substance use recovery community”. Please list all of the people and groups on your team and their specific contributions.

Example Contribution: “100 volunteer hours to help build a playground” or “\$500 in-kind donation for creating our website for free”.

Please include the project team leader and the fiscal sponsor in this list.

Including the project leader and fiscal sponsor, how many people are on your Minigrant team? 5

You will be asked to provide the name, Phone number, Email, and describe the role of each member of your team.

Morgan Hill See - (304) 538-7380 - Wellness Director of the HCHWC and Fiscal Sponsor - Team Leader

Caitlyn Ward - (304) 538-7380 - Intern under Morgan See

TaYare Meade - (304) 530-551 -

Mike Crites - (304) 530-2256 - Executive Director of the Hardy County Committee on Aging

Bill Ours - (340) 530-6355 -

It is required that you have a developing leader on your team. Growing new grassroots leaders is the best way to build long-term change. For someone who has never worked on a healthy-community project before, being part of a Try This WV minigrant team is an opportunity to build leadership skills. Identify a person on your team you feel has potential as a leader and how that growth will happen. You will be asked to report on their growth if your project is funded:

What member of your team is the developing leader?

Caitlyn Ward, she is our summer intern finishing up her degree at Shepherd University. We have been working on exposing her to every aspect of the wellness world, and we are grateful to have found the TryThis WV grant because it is a perfect opportunity for her to take the reins and work through the application process, and see the steps and information needed when working through a grant. Although she may not be around during our swim and learn program, it is a great stepping stone for her to see the beginning process of rolling out a year-long program, and she will be able to start us off strong with the prepared tools.

Letters of Commitment

Letters of Commitment:

You are required to have at least 3 Letters of Commitment for your project. These letters must go beyond simply endorsing your project. Each letter must tell specifically what that partner will contribute to the project. Examples could be a local business committing to donating its labor to build a new playground, a volunteer offering to show up to the weekly cooking classes, or an organization offering the use of its facility for events.

You will need to upload your LOC's here

Upload any additional documents you would like to share here.

Almost Done!

How did you hear about Try This WV Minigrants?

Try This WV strives to make our application process as equitable as possible. When reviewing your application, it helps us to know how much experience you have with the grant writing process. You will not be penalized for a lack of experience. In a few sentences or less, please describe your previous grant writing experience.

Have you completed ALL of the following?

- ☐ Make sure you can check all boxes before submitting:
- ☐ The Project Budget has been uploaded
- ☐ At least three Letters of Commitment have been uploaded

You're Finished!

Time to submit your application!

We will send you a copy of your application for your records within three business days of the application due date. A group of Try This WV team members and partners will be scoring and reviewing each application carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at trythiswv@gmail.com. Thank you for applying and being part of the healthy-community movement!

