

## Mini-Grants: Small Investments for Big Change

April 2017



The goals of the West Virginia Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease (HPCD) are to reduce obesity and improve key chronic disease indicators. We need the help of communities, healthcare systems, and individuals to provide a comprehensive approach improving environments to make healthy choices the easy choice. One of the ways we connect with people where they live, work and play is by partnering with like-minded organizations.

HPCD provides funding and support for mini-grants to partner organizations like Try This West Virginia, Green Thumbs, Healthy Joints, Growing Healthy Communities, and the Mountains of Hope Cancer Coalition. The mini-grants support healthy projects at a community level allowing our goals to have greater impact and reach. Each project provides reporting that informs us of successes and barriers so we may better implement interventions at the state level.

In 2016, HPCD and our partners awarded 88 mini-grants to organizations to implement projects to improve health at the community level.

- HPCD and our partners in Try This West Virginia awarded 57 teams across the state to improve health within their communities. Each project is carried out by a team representing at least three community organizations. All the projects use the funding as seed money to leverage other funds and community contributions.
- In 2016, mini-grants funded by HPCD were awarded to nonprofit groups in nine counties throughout West Virginia by Green Thumbs, Healthy Joints (a program that works to increase awareness of joint health through accessible gardening). The program provides selected nonprofit applicants with financial support to help cover material and supply costs for constructing accessible gardens or to modify existing ones. A portion of funding is to be used toward the purchase of ergonomic gardening tools.
- HPCD and our partners in the Growing Healthy Communities program awarded funding to eight communities for healthy living projects. Funding for this program is provided by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and administered by the West Virginia Development Office. The program provides competitive grants for West Virginia Main Street and ON TRAC (organization, training, revitalization and capacity) communities for activities that increase community health and wellness, while also providing opportunities for downtown revitalization and development.
- The Mountains of Hope Cancer Coalition received funding to award mini-grants to groups interested in improving the health of their communities and cancer prevention and awareness projects.

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