

Request for Proposal: Basic Health & Safety Needs for Youth
Buhl Regional Health Foundation
Release Date: January 6, 2026

OVERVIEW

The Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF) invites proposals from nonprofit organizations serving Mercer County to support initiatives that strengthen the Basic Health and Safety Needs of children, youth, and their families. As one of the seven Vital Conditions for a Thriving Community, Basic Health & Safety Needs serve as a foundational requirement for children to grow, learn, and reach their full potential.

In Mercer County, many young people face barriers to reliable access to essential supports such as nutrition, physical safety, hygiene, and environmental wellbeing. This RFP seeks projects that address gaps in these fundamental needs and /conditions that directly influence a child's physical, mental, and emotional health.

BRHF aims to support programs that provide preventive services, reduce harm, promote safe environments, and ensure that youth have the essential resources needed to thrive.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Proposals should clearly address one or more of the following priority areas:

1. Nutrition & Physical Wellbeing

- Programs that increase access to healthy food for children and youth
- Efforts to reduce food insecurity at home, school, or community sites
- Initiatives that promote physical activity and healthy lifestyle behaviors

2. Safety & Environmental Health

- Projects addressing unsafe or hazardous living environments (lead, pests, unsafe heat/cooling, poor ventilation)
- Interventions that reduce exposure to violence or unsafe community environments
- Programs that provide safe spaces, supervision, or structured youth activities

3. Hygiene, Basic Care & Wellness Supports

- Supporting programmatic costs associated with access to hygiene supplies, clothing essentials, or basic care items for youth providing items – ie. improve infrastructure, staff, etc.
- Programs supporting healthy routines and self-care for children and teens
- Services that connect families to ongoing health and safety resources
- 4. Navigation, Prevention & Supportive Services
- Case management or care coordination that addresses health or safety barriers
- Preventive health/well-being education for youth and families
- Programs that reduce risk factors contributing to unsafe or unhealthy conditions

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants will meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status, government agency or utilizing a fiscal agent who is clearly identified in the application.
- Faith-based organizations must welcome all faiths and participation in religious activity participation must be clearly defined as optional.
- Applicant's efforts must largely serve youth and families who reside in Mercer County, PA.
- Public or community-based organizations partnering with nonprofits
- Previous grantees of BRHF must have fulfilled the required 18 month waiting period from their last grant award and all previous grants must be closed (all grant reporting completed and any unused funds returned)

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit:

1. Description of the project and youth population serviced
2. The specific health or safety needs to be addressed
3. Expected outcomes and how youth will benefit
4. Project budget and timeline
5. Partnerships and existing support, if applicable

FUNDING DETAILS

- Grant amounts will vary based on scope and anticipated impact
- Projects may be new or expansions of existing programs
- Funding period begins June 2026

EVALUATION CRITERIA

BRHF will prioritize proposals that demonstrate:

- Clear and direct benefit to youth
- Measurable outcomes and strong community impact
- Collaboration with local systems and partners
- Sustainability beyond BRHF funding

UNALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Funding may not be used for the following:

- Direct financial assistance to individuals or families (e.g., vouchers, stipends, utility assistance)
- Emergency or crisis payments for medical bills, prescriptions, or other individual health expenses
- Capital construction or major facility renovations (new buildings, structural remodeling, large-scale upgrades)
- Purchase of land or property
- Routine operational or facility maintenance not directly tied to the program's youth health or safety objectives (e.g., custodial services, landscaping)
- Personal items for individual families (clothing, furniture, appliances, hygiene kits) unless part of a pre-approved programmatic intervention
- Purchase of vehicles for transporting clients or staff
- Lobbying, political activity, or fundraising events
- Staff bonuses, gift cards, or incentives unrelated to program participation
- Clinical or medical services outside the scope of the project
- Costs incurred before the official grant award date
- Activities that do not directly support youth-focused health or safety outcomes in Mercer County
- Additional expenses may be disallowed at BRHF's discretion

APPLICATION PROCESS

All submissions must be made through the BRHF Grant Portal.

Step 1: Submit Letter of Interest (LOI) - Only one RFP LOI submission per organization will be accepted.

Step 2: BRHF reviews LOIs and issues invitations for full proposals

Step 3: Invited applicants submit detailed proposals including:

- **Most recent IRS Form 990**
- **Project budget and funding plan**
- **Description of initiative, timeline, and expected outcomes**
- **Optional attachments (not scored)**

REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- **Creativity and innovation**
- **Strength of impact on housing-related well-being**
- **Collaboration across systems and partners**
- **Clear, actionable implementation steps**
- **Measurable outcomes and sustainability**

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awarded organizations must submit interim and final reports according to the schedule set by the BRHF Director of Grantmaking.

RFP TIMELINE

RFP Cycle Opens	January 6, 2026
LOI Deadline	February 13, 2026
Invitations for Detailed Proposals	March 6, 2026
Detailed Proposal Deadline	April 24, 2026
Award Announcements	June 3, 2026
Funds Released	June 15, 2026

QUESTIONS

BRHF staff are available to assist applicants throughout the process.

Kimberly Porsch | Director of Grantmaking
kimberly@buhlrf.org

Ashley Mausser | Executive Team Assistant
ashley@buhlrf.org