

Mini-grant Purchase Guidance

This handout will help guide you in determining how your mini-grant funding can be used to support implementation of your PA NAP SACC Action Plans and improve your practices and policies. Remember – it is important that the purchase request align with your program’s action steps for program improvement. Your Action Plan and Planned Purchases form will be reviewed by project staff, and you will be notified of your plan’s approval or if there is a need to make a change. Please do not make purchases until your plan has been approved.

Funding may NOT be used for the following:

- Food to be sent home with children
- Food for daily snacks or meals (part of the menu and separate from educational tasting activities)
- Large kitchen equipment (oven, refrigerator, etc.)
- Playground fencing or surfacing
- Sedentary infant seats such as swings, saucers, bouncers
- Large, stationary equipment like large trampolines, bounce houses, or swing sets
- Funding for staff duties that are part of normal, daily activities

Allowable expenses:

Please note that this is not an inclusive list – just a sample to inspire your brainstorming. If you have questions about a purchase, please contact Cindy Wilson at cjwilson@tiu11.org or 717-248-4942 ext. 143.

Examples of past purchases:

Professional nutrition or physical activity instruction (e.g., a fitness instructor or nutrition educator) with the understanding that staff training will be incorporated so that the activity can be sustained beyond the grant period.



A portion of funds may be used to purchase food that is part of a specific nutrition educational activity (e.g., taste testing fruits and vegetables)



Teacher resource books, children's books, games, props, dramatic play materials or posters that promote nutrition and physical activity education



Small, portable play equipment that maximizes opportunities for more children to be active together (e.g., jump ropes, balls, mitt/catch sets, balance beams, river rocks, hoops, yoga/tummy time mats, beanbags, activity dice, etc.)



Containers to store portable play equipment so that it can be used indoors and out



Portable water dispensers, tumblers, or water jugs so that water can be available throughout the day



Resources/Materials to support creating a breastfeeding friendly environment



Gardening materials



Training/professional development costs that will support your program improvement



Staff time to complete mini-grant activities outside of normal operating hours



Substitute coverage during team meetings, trainings, and/or consultation sessions



Music, scarves, fitness DVDs



Office supplies (paper, printer ink) to create newsletters or bulletin boards for families focused on healthy habits or to print copies of updated or newly created policy books or family handbooks



Your purchases do not have to come from a specific company or retailer. The links below are just a few examples of some of the places past programs have visited when making decisions on how to best meet the needs of their children:

[Lakeshore Learning](#) - search active play, nutrition, movement, book lists, posters and more

[Discount School Supply](#)- search active play, nutrition, movement, book lists, posters and more

[Kaplan Early Learning](#) – search active play, nutrition, movement, book lists, posters and more

[Keystone Kids Go](#) – free, printable newsletters for families, training opportunities, and more

[Choosy Kids](#) – music and activities to get you up and moving to the beat

[PA NAP SACC Implementation page](#) –free and low-cost professional development opportunities on children’s health topics, offered both online and face to face

[Eat Together PA](#) – fun and creative recipes and snack ideas that kids (and adults) will love

If you discover a great place for resources, let us know so that we can add them to the list!

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