

Connecticut Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) Community Mini Grant Application Form



To: Community Prevention Leaders

Re: Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) – Community Mini Grants

January 5, 2026

Amplify is pleased to announce the *Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) – Community Mini Grant* opportunity in Region 4. This funding opportunity is made possible through the [Juul Settlement Funds](#) with support from the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (CT DMHAS). Funding for this program will be administered by Amplify contingent upon the availability of grant funds received from CT DMHAS.

1. PURPOSE

The *Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) – Community Mini Grants program* provides funding to help communities build capacity and advance community-led efforts aimed at preventing underage nicotine initiation, educating on the harms of nicotine use, and enhancing access to cessation services. Grantees are encouraged to use local and state data, including regional priority reports, to identify priority populations and tailor their approaches accordingly.

2. FUNDING DETAILS

The grant period will be July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Applicants may seek funding up to \$10,000 and a maximum of 5 organizations will be awarded in Region 4.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is open to Local Prevention Councils (LPCs), community coalitions, local governments, schools, and other community organizations actively engaged in substance use prevention efforts. Only one application per community will be awarded. If one organization spans multiple towns, they must identify a primary community of focus. Multi-town organizations can also submit multiple applications (and receive multiple awards) across different communities where they have a presence. If multiple organizations would like to apply for one award, they must be based in the same community, demonstrate previous partnership experience, and identify a lead organization.

4. ACTIVITIES

Funded organizations are expected to focus on initiatives that prevent underage nicotine use, promote evidence-based interventions, and support cessation efforts.

A. Required Activities

To ensure consistency and meaningful impact across funded initiatives, all grantees will be responsible for completing the following **six (6)** required activities during the funding period:

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1. Disseminate nicotine prevention and health education infographics, fact sheets, brochures, or posters through social media, health fairs, existing community events, schools, and/or healthcare settings.
2. Conduct focus groups with youth under 21 and/or adults to collect qualitative data and better understand the needs of the community as they pertain to reducing underage nicotine use.
3. Promote and raise awareness of Connecticut-serving cessation resources (e.g. VapeFreeCT, Commit to Quit, My Life My Quit.).
4. Consult with Amplify to gather current local data.
5. Participate in regional vaping workgroup meeting hosted by Amplify.
6. Attend regular check-in meetings with Amplify as requested.

B. Selected Activities

Applicants must choose **at least one (1) Focus Area** listed below and complete **at least three (3) activities** under that Focus Area.

Focus Area 1: School-Based

1. Implement a primary prevention program in school(s) for youth aged 5-18.
2. Establish a middle or high school faculty “champion” to be trained in an evidence-based alternative suspension program (e.g. Stanford REACH, INDEPTH, etc.).
3. Review and recommend school policies, procedures, and protocols regarding student nicotine use or possession infractions.
4. Coordinate training for school faculty in Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (A-SBIRT).
5. Implement a photo voice* project for youth to document and inform others on the environmental impacts of nicotine products in the community.
 - a. *Photo voice is a community-based participatory research method where individuals use cameras to capture images of their lives, surroundings, and issues, then discuss these photos in groups to create narratives, raise awareness, build critical consciousness, and advocate for social or health-related change, empowering them to become agents of action for policy and program improvements.

Focus Area 2: Retail Environment

1. Support the Regional UNPP coordinator in conducting retailer education and outreach. (e.g. Provide retailers with Tobacco 21 materials).
2. Review Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and DMHAS Tobacco Prevention & Enforcement Program (TPEP) retail location and compliance data to inform and conduct retail environmental scans.
3. Review local ordinances/policies, recommend best practices, and raise awareness of nicotine-related issues including but not limited to:

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- Unregulated products in the retail environment
- Retailer density and proximity to schools or other youth-serving organizations
- Storefront and point-of-sale advertising of nicotine products

Focus Area 3: Community-Based

1. Provide information and/or conduct presentations to engage parents and encourage family conversations regarding underage nicotine prevention.
2. Utilize town-level data to customize and promote UNPP-developed positive community norms campaign.
3. Develop and distribute nicotine quit and/or wellness kits.
4. Implement a photo voice project for youth to document and inform others on the environmental impacts of nicotine products in their community.
5. Host substance-free events for youth in the community (e.g. movie nights, skate nights, wellness activities, family game nights).

5. REPORTING

Evaluation: Grantees will be required to collect process data (e.g. the number of events that occurred, the number of people that were reached, etc.), and report to Amplify on a quarterly basis, due by the 15th of the month following the quarter end. A final report including status of goals, objectives, and program evaluation will be due to Amplify within 30 days of June 30th, 2027.

Expenses: Grantees will be required to track and save receipts for all program expenses. A quarterly budget report will be submitted to Amplify by the 15th of the month following the quarter end.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

Please submit your completed application and any other questions to our project coordinator Hope Allen at Hallen@amplifyct.org.

Applications must be submitted by **March 20, 2026**. Amplify will review and approve applications on a rolling basis, even as RBHAO processing continues through **April 30, 2026**. Early submission is encouraged to support timely review and approval.

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Section 1: Organizational Background & Demonstrated Need (30 points)

1. Organizational Information

(Complete the table below)

Date	Click or tap to enter a date.
Community of Focus	Click or tap here to enter text.
Fiduciary Organization	Click or tap here to enter text.
Local Prevention Council?	Choose an item.
Federal Tax ID	Click or tap here to enter text.
Address (Street, City/Town, State Zip Code)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Project Lead (Name, Role)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Phone	Click or tap here to enter text.
Email	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is your organization a 501(c)(3), Local Prevention Council (LPC), community prevention coalition, local government, school, or other community organization actively engaged in substance use prevention efforts?	Choose an item. <i>If so, please briefly describe your organization's past substance use prevention experience (4-8 sentences):</i> Click or tap here to enter text.
Is your organization currently receiving funding to address nicotine use among Connecticut residents under 21 years old?	Choose an item. <i>If so, please specify from which source:</i> Click or tap here to enter text. <i>Amount of funding:</i> Click or tap here to enter text. <i>When does this funding end?</i> Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Briefly describe your organization's mission and the population you serve. (Limit: 150 words)

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3. What problem, need, or gap does your proposed project address? Who will benefit? (Limit: 200 words)

(Provide brief data, observations, or community insight that support the need.)

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Section 2: Work Plan (40 points)

4. Provide a brief description of what the proposed activities will look like in your community and why you chose these activities.
(Limit: 300 words)

5. What are your main project objectives?

(List 2-4 specific, measurable objectives)

Objective 1:

Objective 2:

6. What activities will you carry out to meet these objectives?

(Complete the table below)

Proposed Workplan		Timeline (Start-End)	Impact (Estimate # served)	Staff Responsible
Instructions: Please provide the activity name, brief description, and estimates for the timeline, number of people served, and cost for each proposed activity in the table below. Add or delete rows as needed. (At least 2 activities under at least 2 different Focus Areas)				
Required Activities	1. Disseminate nicotine prevention and health education infographics, fact sheets, brochures, or posters through social media, health fairs, community events, schools, and/or healthcare settings.			
	2. Conduct focus groups with youth under 21 and/or adults to collect qualitative data and better understand the needs of the community as they pertain to reducing underage nicotine use.			
	3. Promote and raise awareness of Connecticut-based cessation resources (e.g. VapeFreeCT, Commit to Quit, My Life My Quit.).			

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	4. Consult with Amplify to gather current local data.			
	5. Participate in regional vaping workgroup meeting hosted by Amplify.			
	6. Attend regular check-in meetings with Amplify as requested.			
Focus Area (Select at least 3 activities):	Activity 1:			
	Activity 2:			
	Activity 3:			
	Activity 4:			
	Activity 5:			
Focus Area 2 (OPTIONAL):	Activity #:			
	Activity #:			

7. What results or outcomes do you hope to achieve by the end of the grant period? (Limit: 150 words)

(ex. *Retailer Education - Increased retailer compliance rate for underage nicotine sales in the community from xx% to xx%*)

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Section 3: Budget (30 points)

8. How much funding are you applying for?

9. Please use the budget table below to show how funds will be used. Use only categories relevant to your project.

****PLEASE NOTE**:**

- ‘Personnel’ may not exceed 15% of the total budget.
- Per person speaker honorariums are not to exceed \$500.00.
- **Funding cannot be utilized for the development and implementation of other social marketing/advertising prevention campaigns other than those created and/or approved by the Regional UNPP Coordinator.**
- Allowable program expenses may include print materials, supplies, and programmatic food expenses; however, food expenses may not exceed more than 5% of the total budget
- Receipts must be maintained as you may need to submit them upon request.

Budget		
Expense Category	Amount	Description
Personnel	\$	
Program Supplies	\$	
Contracted Services	\$	
Food	\$	
Travel	\$	
Printed Materials & Postage	\$	
Other (specify)	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

10. Briefly explain why these costs are reasonable and necessary for the project. (Limit: 100 words)

Connecticut Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) Community Mini Grant Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

UNNP Mini Grant Process Timeline	
<i>(Grant Period: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)</i>	
Grant Announcement and Open for Applications	Monday, January 5, 2026
Grant Deadline	Friday, March 20, 2026
RBHAO Review and Approval Process	March 20 – April 30, 2026
Coalition Grant Notification	By Friday, May 1, 2026
RBHAO Contracting Process	May 1 – June 30, 2026
Mini Grant Program Start Date	Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Is this opportunity limited to Local Prevention Councils (LPC)?

No, this is not limited to LPCs. If an organization that is applying is not an LPC it is recommended that they include a letter of support from their city's/town's LPC in their application.

What are the goals of this grant?

There are 2 goals for this grant, Goal One: Decrease nicotine use among individuals under the age of 21 and Goal Two: Increase community capacity to address nicotine use among individuals under the age of 21.

What is the target population for this grant?

This grant is focused on preventing nicotine use for those under the age of 21.

What if my organization has limited data for my community? Can we still apply?

Yes, we encourage all interested organizations to apply. If you currently have limited data, please include any existing local and regional data available. Also, the grant allows for additional data gathering for key informant interviews, community feedback, and focus groups.

If my coalition receives other prevention funding, can we apply?

Yes, you can apply for this funding opportunity if you currently receive other state or federal prevention funding. It is preferred that new strategies are developed and implemented to complement existing nicotine prevention efforts.

Could this grant be shared among multiple organizations from the same town?

Yes, multiple organizations from the same town may apply for one award. However, they must have previously demonstrated partnership experience and must designate a lead organization that will be responsible for programmatic oversight and budgetary deliverables. Please explain within the narrative of the application why this collaboration is necessary, how it would enhance the prevention work in the community, and the prior history of collaboration between coalitions.

Connecticut Underage Nicotine Prevention Program (UNPP) Community Mini Grant Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can organizations from different towns apply together for one award?

No, separate organizations serving in different towns may not apply together for one award.

What if my organization spans multiple towns?

If one organization spans multiple towns, they must pick a town to prioritize. They may also choose to submit more than one application for each town that they are based in.

How much funding would awardees receive and when would funding begin?

The maximum award would be \$10,000, and the grant period will run from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Can this grant support staffing?

Yes, however, staffing, also denoted as 'Personnel' on the application budget, may not exceed 15% of the total budget. As part of 'Personnel', stipends may be provided for young people or community members who have defined roles and responsibilities within your proposed nicotine prevention workplan. Per person speaker honorariums should be budgeted under 'Contracted Services' and may not exceed \$500.00.

Can we use these funds to develop a nicotine social norms campaign?

Funding cannot be utilized for the development and implementation of other social marketing/advertising prevention campaigns other than those created and/or approved by the Regional UNPP Coordinator. If there is a need that isn't covered by existing campaign materials, please contact your UNPP Regional Coordinator.

Are there any unallowable expenses?

Yes. In general, those activities which are not supported as being evidence-based will not be an allowable expense. For example, funding may not be used to purchase vape detectors. If in doubt, please direct any specific questions to the UNPP Regional Coordinator.

Can we implement activities other than those outlined in the application?

Yes, you may choose to do other activities *in addition* to those outlined within the application. However, it must be approved by the UNPP Regional Coordinator in writing prior to implementation.