

Healthy Senior Grant Program Policy

Funding Priorities & Project Guidance

The Healthy Senior Grant Program supports projects which improve the health, nutrition, well-being, and overall quality of life for older adults in the Texas Panhandle.

The Mary E. Bivins Foundation (MEBF) recognizes a broad range of needs facing aging populations, while prioritizing projects that directly address food insecurity among older adults.

This framework is intended to help applicants understand how proposed projects align with the funding priorities. It is designed as a guide and does not replace formal grant eligibility requirements or application instructions.

Funding Overview

- The Healthy Senior Grant cycle opens annually in August with awards made in December.
- Requests may be for up to \$50,000 per project and a minimum of \$2,500.
- Only one application per organization will be accepted each funding cycle.
- If the total amount of requests in a given cycle exceed the available funding, organizations that did not receive a grant in the previous cycle will receive priority.
- In order to apply, organizations cannot have an existing, active Healthy Senior Grant. Organizations may have an active Community Grant or Rapid Response Grant if for a different purpose.

Primary Funding Priorities

The Healthy Senior Grant Program generally prioritizes projects in the following order:

Priority Area 1: Senior Food Security & Nutrition

Projects that directly address food insecurity, nutrition access, or meal support for older adults are considered the highest priority for funding.

Examples may include:

- Congregate meal programs
- Home-delivered meals
- Senior pantry or grocery access programs*
- Nutrition support services
- Rural food access initiatives
- Programs reducing barriers to healthy food access

Priority Area 2: Healthy Aging & Senior Well-being

Projects that support the broader health, independence, safety, and quality of life of older adults are also encouraged.

Examples may include:

- Health and wellness programming
- Social connection and isolation reduction
- Transportation assistance
- Physical activity or fall prevention programs
- Caregiver support services
- Technology access and digital inclusion
- Programs supporting aging in place

*General food access programs serving all populations may be considered when they demonstrate a meaningful benefit to older adults such as being a primary or sole provider, serving rural communities, or reducing barriers experienced by older adults. Organizations unable to demonstrate this type of senior impact will be encouraged to pursue funding through the MEBF Community Grant Program instead.

Project Type Priorities

Within each priority area, the MEBF Board generally considers the following project types:

Type of Support		
Food and Nutrition Support	Purchase of food, meal support, pantry items, and nutrition-related services that <u>directly benefit older adults</u> .	High Priority
Essential Food Infrastructure and Equipment	Equipment or infrastructure that <u>directly supports senior food access or meal programs</u> , such as refrigerators, freezers, food storage, delivery, or meal preparation equipment.	High Priority
Program Support	Support for a defined set of activities centered on healthy aging or wellness with clear parameters, goals, and intended outcomes.	High Priority
Equipment and Program Infrastructure	Limited equipment, technology, operational tools, or infrastructure that directly strengthens services for older adults.	Moderate Priority
Facility Improvements	Renovations or physical improvements directly tied to senior program delivery, accessibility, or safety.	Moderate Priority
General Operating Support	Funding for general organizational operations or overhead costs without a defined senior-specific program outcome. <i>*Note this may be considered a High/Moderate Priority if the organization is a sole service provider in a rural county or targets participants in underserved communities.</i>	Low Priority
Requests with Limited Senior Impact	Projects that do not clearly demonstrate a direct and meaningful benefit to older adults.	Will Not Fund

Characteristics of Strong Proposals

Projects that are most competitive for funding typically:

- Demonstrate a direct benefit to adults age 60+
- Address clearly identified community needs
- Include measurable outcomes or defined impact
- Address the needs of rural, underserved, or vulnerable older adults
- Demonstrate collaboration or community partnerships
- Show organizational capacity to successfully implement the project
- Align with the Foundation's commitment to improving senior health and food security

Additional Guidance

The MEBF Board understands that community needs are diverse and may consider innovative or emerging approaches that align with the mission of improving the lives of older adults.

Funding priorities may evolve over time based on community needs, available resources, and strategic direction established by the MEBF Board.