

YouthLine Mini-grants Program

Distributing school suicide prevention funding since 2000

Each academic year since Fall 2020, YouthLine has provided School Suicide Prevention Mini-grants to schools across Oregon. YouthLine offers Mini-grant awards up to \$2,000 to help schools fund suicide prevention and other mental health initiatives for their students. Because these projects are conceived and implemented at the building level, they provide specific, relevant, and tailored mental health support to schools from those who know their students best: teachers, counselors, and other school leaders. YouthLine encourages schools to consider projects that will positively impact those student communities who are most impacted by suicide risk: youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth, and funding is prioritized for applications that have a focus on equity.

How it works

YouthLine staff reach out to local schools to notify them of the annual Mini-grants program. School leaders are invited to conceptualize a plan that will further suicide prevention efforts on their campuses. Budgets are often limited, and YouthLine staff have learned over the years that many teachers and counselors do not have access to funding to prioritize mental wellness and suicide prevention initiatives for their students. After they have a project in mind, leaders complete a short application where they outline the project, share a budget, and explain how their students and campus will positively benefit from the funding. Following approval by YouthLine staff, funding is sent to schools within weeks so they can complete their project within the current school year.

What types of projects do Mini-grants fund?

School leaders are asked to choose one of the following primary uses for their Mini-grant award:

- **Staff training or continuing education**, which may include costs for teacher release time and substitutes
- **Student mental health curriculum**, including evidence-based social and emotional learning curricula
- **Supplies for a physical wellness space** where students can take a break if they are feeling overwhelmed or activated
- **Support toward a student club or alliance**, including Black Student Unions and Gender and Sexuality Alliances
- **Wellness event for the school or community**, which may include mental health resource fairs or awareness weeks
- **Equity-based initiatives**, such as Pride weeks, culturally-specific events, and affinity spaces

Involving students in school suicide prevention

YouthLine invites school leaders to empower student organizations to propose their own projects to help increase mental wellness among their peers. YouthLine offers \$600 Mini-grants for student-led initiatives.

Launching Mini-grants on Maui

With support from Maui United Way, YouthLine will be able to support up to 12 schools with their suicide prevention initiatives during the 2025-2026 academic year. Importantly, schools who receive a Mini-grant award have a lasting connection with YouthLine that promotes mental wellness on their campuses for years to come.