



Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle Melissa Carter Memorial Grant Application

April 24, 2026

Background:

Melissa Carter served as the Director of the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle (AAA) for fifteen years before her passing on June 29, 2021. Melissa was a passionate advocate for seniors. She led by example and with the heart of a servant. Her kindness and compassion have had a lasting impact on her family, friends, coworkers, those in the field of aging, and the older adults whose lives she touched.

As one of her last wishes, Melissa requested that donations be made in her name to the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle. Over \$8,000 was raised in her memory the first year. On the anniversary of her passing in 2022, the AAA opened the first Melissa Carter Memorial Grant application to support entities with programs benefiting older adults. Since then, over \$20,000 has been awarded to organizations in loving memory of Melissa and her commitment to seniors in the Texas Panhandle. Each year, the AAA accepts donations to the grant fund and receives a substantial contribution from her husband to continue Melissa's legacy. The AAA aims to sustain this grant annually, depending on the funds contributed throughout the year.

2026 Grant Details:

As part of the AAA's Older Americans Month (OAM) Celebration on May 21, 2026, grants were awarded to organizations for projects benefiting residents over 60 living in the Panhandle. Each organization was allowed to submit only one application and could receive up to \$2,000 if selected as a grant recipient this year.

This year's OAM theme was "Champion Your Health," which emphasizes wellness, prevention, and personal responsibility for healthy aging. Projects aligning with this mission and the OAM theme were prioritized. The AAA evaluated the grant applications based on the project's description, its focus on the target population, potential community impact, and relevance to the OAM theme.

Successful applicants will be notified at the time of the event on May 21, 2026.

**Completed applications must be submitted to
Debra King at dking@theprpc.org by 5:00 PM on May 11, 2025.**

Name of Organization:

Address: Phone:

Contact Name and Title:

Provide a brief description of your proposed project. What unmet need does this project address?

Clearly identify the demographic of older adults that your project aims to serve. How will the project contribute to their overall well-being, independence, or quality of life?

Highlight any innovative or creative aspects of your project that distinguish it from existing programs. How does your project support the "Champion Your Health" theme by promoting prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility among participants as they age?