



NIGHT SKY PRESERVATION FUND



Application Window
Open October 1 - 31, 2024

512.894.2214 | info@hillcountryalliance.org | www.hillcountryalliance.org

ABOUT US

At the Hill Country Alliance, we are dedicated to ensuring current and future generations have the opportunity to experience, enjoy, and benefit from the remarkable beauty of the Hill Country we know and love. Our mission is to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and the unique character of the Texas Hill Country.



We are stewards of the night sky.

The Hill Country sits on the edge of the night. To its east is a nighttime landscape dominated by artificial lighting that stretches to the East Coast. To its west lies a less inhabited landscape, famous for its starry skies. Stepping outside on a cool, clear Hill Country night to gaze at the stars helps us escape the fast pace of our daily lives, though few regulations currently stand in place to preserve this experience for future generations.

The Hill Country Alliance Night Skies program helps Hill Country counties and cities minimize the impacts of light pollution through education and outreach, the establishment of outdoor lighting policies, and the recognition and celebration of certified Dark Sky Places in our region. Join us in our effort to stop the spread of light pollution and keep our Texas night skies “big and bright”.



ABOUT THE FUND

The Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund provides financial reimbursement assistance to local grassroots organizations, groups, institutions, and communities engaged in efforts to improve outdoor lighting and decrease light pollution.

This is a reimbursement fund. Fund recipients will be reimbursed for hard costs, up to \$5,000, incurred over a 12-month period following the award date.

TARGET GOALS

Support locally led work for night skies by:

- Improving outdoor lighting
- Reducing light pollution and its effects
- Decreasing energy usage, cost, and greenhouse gas emissions
- Supporting the development and growth of International Dark Sky Places (IDSP)
- Expanding education and advocacy

Apply for up to \$5,000 in financial reimbursement assistance for your night sky preservation project.

Apply today!

Let us help you reach your goals of darker, star-filled skies.

**OPENS OCTOBER 1
CLOSES OCTOBER 31**



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

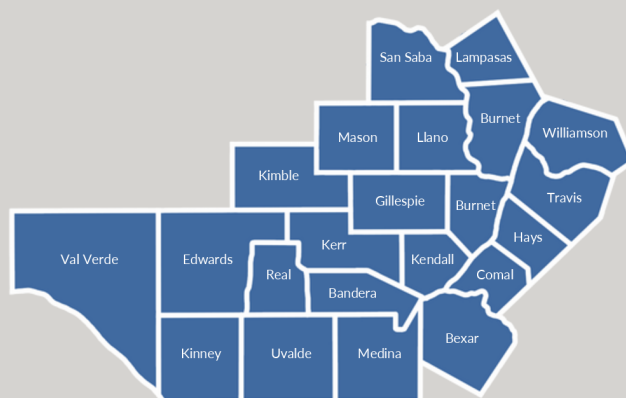
- **Nonprofits** with 501(c)(3) status
- **Sole proprietorships**
- **Local governmental entities**
- **Small businesses**
 - Independently owned and operated

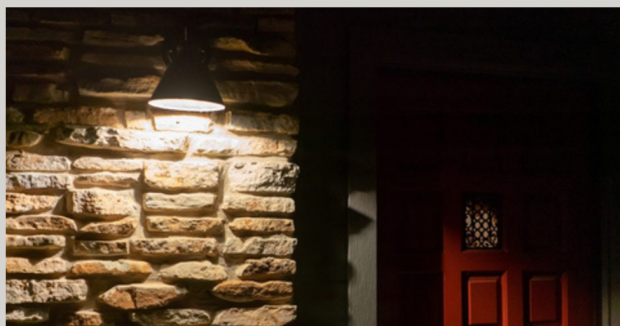
Applicant products or services must serve some or all of the counties listed below:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| • Bandera | • Kendall | • Real |
| • Bexar | • Kerr | • San Saba |
| • Blanco | • Kimble | • Travis |
| • Burnet | • Kinney | • Uvalde |
| • Comal | • Lampasas | • Val Verde |
| • Edwards | • Llano | • Williamson |
| • Gillespie | • Mason | |
| • Hays | • Medina | |

CRITERIA

- Funds must support night sky preservation.
- Applicants using funds to cover the IDSP application fee must provide active applicant status confirmation from Dark Sky International.
- Fixtures funded as part of an outdoor lighting retrofit or new installation must be accepted under the [DarkSky Approved Program](#).
- Applicants can use funds to purchase bulbs at or under 3000K for fixtures that are full cut-off and shielded.
- Applicants using funds to purchase shields for outdoor lighting must provide proof of shield and fixture compatibility from the manufacturer.
- Funds used to retrofit lighting of a local business, Homeowners Associations (HOA), or Property Owner Associations (POA) must intend to apply for recognition through Hill Country Alliance.
- Use of funds for any other purposes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.





SAMPLE PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

(In order of priority)

- International Dark Sky Place applications
- Local community lighting retrofits
- Local organization facility or property lighting retrofits
- Businesses, HOAs, or POAs pursuing recognition through HCA's Night Sky Friendly Business or Neighborhood Programs
- Education and outreach resources and materials

Apply Today!

Star light, star bright - help grow our fund and support the night!

The Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund is dedicated to protecting our night skies from light pollution and ensuring the breathtaking celestial views that define our nighttime landscape remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

Donations made to the Night Sky Fund will help grow the number of Dark Sky Place designations across the region, enable the implementation of night sky best practices, support local advocates, and expand appreciation for our unique nocturnal environment.

Join us in preserving the wonder of the night sky and maintaining the Texas Hill Country's cherished starlit heritage.

Click here to donate: bit.ly/HCAfundthenight





HOW TO APPLY

This fund provides financial support from the Texas Hill Country for the Texas Hill Country! Apply today to benefit from the fund, or reach out to us and learn how you or your organization can help grow the fund.

Click on the link below or scan the QR code to fill out and submit your application to the Hill Country Alliance Night Sky Preservation Fund.

<https://bit.ly/NightSkyFundApplication>

The funding committee will review and evaluate each application and reach out with any questions. Awardees of night sky funds will be notified in December.



Good luck!

NEED ASSISTANCE? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email info@hillcountryalliance.org with the subject line Night Sky Fund.
