

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2026

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Hill Country Alliance Accepting Applications for Night Sky Preservation Fund Through October 31

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is accepting applications through October 31 for its Night Sky Preservation Fund, which provides financial reimbursement assistance to local grassroots organizations, institutions, and other groups working to improve outdoor lighting and reduce light pollution. Now in its third year, the Fund empowers local stewards to implement immediate, hands-on dark sky solutions that protect our nocturnal ecosystem and preserve our shared starlit heritage.

The Fund is available to local nonprofit organizations, local government entities, small businesses, and sole proprietorships working to preserve the natural beauty of the night sky. Applicants may request up to \$5,000 in reimbursement funding for eligible night sky preservation projects. Qualifying projects may include applying for International Dark Sky Place designation, retrofitting outdoor lighting to be more night-sky-friendly, developing educational and outreach materials, and establishing or supporting sky quality monitoring.

Projects must take place within one or more of the 22 eligible counties: Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Burnet, Comal, Edwards, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Medina, Real, San Saba, Travis, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Williamson. Interested applicants are encouraged to review eligibility requirements and submit their applications before the October 31 deadline at hillcountryalliance.org/nightskyfund.

Through this funding opportunity, HCA aims to strengthen the region's network of International Dark Sky Places and sky quality monitoring stations while expanding community education and engagement around light pollution.

“We have been thrilled by the warm reception the Night Sky Preservation Fund has received over the past two years, which has allowed HCA to support 25 distinct projects across 17 organizations,” said Dawn Davies, Night Sky Program Manager for the Hill Country Alliance. “We are deeply grateful to the Coypu Foundation for helping us get this fund rolling in its first two years, and to our community members who stepped up in 2025 and 2026 to help us grow it. Thanks to a committed baseline contribution from HCA, we have solidified the permanence of this fund as an annual opportunity moving forward – though we will continue looking to passionate donors and funders to help us sustain and expand its capacity in the years ahead.”

Davies noted that while the Fund has made a tangible impact for communities across the region, protecting our nocturnal environment continues to receive less financial support than many other

conservation efforts. HCA hopes individual donors and major funders alike will recognize the critical importance of investing in the Night Sky Preservation Fund through recurring or annual giving.

The application period coincides with Hill Country Night Sky Month, an annual October celebration now in its seventh year. The month-long observance invites Hill Country residents and visitors to explore the ecological, economic, and cultural significance of protecting the region's dark skies from the ground up.

To learn more about eligibility requirements, the application process, or ways to contribute to the Night Sky Preservation Fund, visit hillcountryalliance.org/nightskyfund. Those interested in helping safeguard the region's nighttime environment can also donate to the fund at <https://bit.ly/HCAfundthenight>.

About the Hill Country Alliance: *The Hill Country Alliance is a nonprofit organization bringing together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country. Learn more at hillcountryalliance.org.*

[Graphics available for use here.](#)