



Hennepin Youth Sports Program-Equipment Grants RFP Spring 2012

Hennepin Youth Sports Equipment Grants

Background

Hennepin County has operated the Hennepin Youth Sports Program since 2009. Units of government interested in developing facilities for amateur sports or recreation are able to apply for facility grants up to \$325,000. The source of this funding is the state legislation authorizing the building of Target Field. Hennepin County is able to grant up to \$2 million dollars each grant cycle to Hennepin County communities to assist with developing these facilities.

In 2011, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners added a capital equipment grant program to the existing program, which allows Youth Sports Organizations (YSO) to apply for grants for equipment relating to youth and amateur sports activities. A total of \$250,000 has been set aside for this purpose.

In order to encourage a full spectrum of applicants, this program will be conducted in two rounds each with a minimum funding capacity of \$125,000. One round will be conducted in the fall and one in the spring.

Purpose

The purpose of these grants will be to assist local youth sports organizations which have operating/usage agreements with local units of government to promote stronger relationships and support better maintained and playable sports facilities.

No grant awards may be used for ongoing expenses, such as programming services or operating and maintaining the facilities. Charter schools and youth sports organizations must enlist a local unit of government to submit an application.

Criteria

These criteria will be among those considered in evaluating grant applications:

- Population and number of youth served by the organization
- LGU's may independently apply for these grants, but preference will be given to applications where there are one or more Youth Sports Organization partners.
- Organizations should be in good standing with their communities and have a tradition of providing quality sports programming
- To the extent possible, grants will be awarded to a mix of various sport activities and distributed to communities throughout the county
- **NOTE:** Grants will not be awarded for the purchase of uniforms, scrimmage vests, helmets, or other personal equipment of participants

Examples

The following are examples of the types of equipment covered by the grant program:

- Field maintenance equipment
- Pitching machines
- Goals
- Backboards
- Nets
- Marking equipment
- Football dummies
- Team training aids

Partnerships

A youth sports organization must have the endorsement of a Local Government Unit (LGU), such as a city, school district or park district. The LGU pledges to act as a fiscal agent for the grant and agrees to ensure the grant is used for its intended purpose.

Grant Amount

Awards will range from \$1,000 up to \$10,000. Respondents are not required to have a local match. Funds will be granted for up to the full amount of equipment.

General Information

Grant Administrator

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners will make the grant awards to respondents. The Board has contracted with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to administer the application process.

Updates

The latest updates can be found at http://www.mnsports.org/grant_program.stm.

Contact

Prospective responders who have questions regarding this RFP may contact:

Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, 1700 105th Ave NE, Blaine, Minnesota 55449

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Deadline

All proposals must be received by MASC by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 9, 2012 at the address above.