



# Hennepin Youth Sports Program Request for Proposals 2019

## Background

Hennepin County is seeking local government units interested in purchasing equipment for youth sports and recreation and building playgrounds. State legislation authorizing the building of Target Field allows Hennepin County to use a portion of the 0.15% sales tax surcharge to grant over \$2 million dollars each year to Hennepin County communities to assist with developing these facilities. These grants are made through the Hennepin Youth Sports Program. Since 2009, the HYSP has awarded over \$21 million to communities throughout Hennepin County.

In 2011, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a separate equipment grant program which allows local government units and youth sports organizations to apply for grants to purchase capital equipment relating to youth athletics or recreation. Up to \$125,000 will be granted in both a fall and a spring grant cycle. In 2015, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a new grant program for playground structures, which awards up to \$125,000 each spring.

## Spring Equipment Grants

### Purpose

The purpose of the equipment grants is to improve playability, provide enhanced training, and promote stronger relationships between local government units and youth sports organizations.

### Criteria

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

- Partnerships between local government units and youth sports organizations
- Number of youth served by the organization
- Ratio of the amount of matching funds to the total cost of the equipment
- To the extent possible, grants will be awarded to a variety of sports and recreational activities and distributed to communities throughout Hennepin County

## Examples

- Goals
- Pitching machines
- Field maintenance equipment
- Nets
- Backboards
- Blocking sleds and dummies
- Gymnastics equipment
- Volleyball standards
- Wrestling mats
- Track and field equipment

## Note

All equipment must be for association or team use – items worn or used by just one person are not allowed. Application for balls, uniforms, gloves, helmets, sticks or bats are not allowed. Contact the Grant Administrator if you have questions about a specific grant request.

## Partnerships

A youth sports association or other private non-profit organization must have a local government unit, such as a city, school district, or park district submit the application. The LGU pledges to act as a fiscal agent for the grant and agrees to ensure the grant is used for its intended purpose. The equipment purchased may be owned by either the LGU or the youth sports organization. Applications submitted with the support of a youth sports organization will be preferred.

## Awards

Equipment awards will be up to \$10,000. Matching funds are a criteria for rating the applications, but are not required. The awards are paid as reimbursement to the local government unit after the equipment has been purchased and paperwork showing payment has been submitted.

## Description and pricing

The application must have a full description of the equipment requested, including brand name and/or model information if applicable. Pricing information for the requested equipment, either a bid from a vendor or an online catalog listing, is also required.

# Playground Grants

## Purpose

The purpose of the playground grants is build playground structures throughout Hennepin County.

## Criteria

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

- New installations are favored over replacement or renovation
- Number of yearly visits estimate

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- Partnerships between local government units and with non-profit organizations
- Ratio of the amount of matching funds to the total cost
- Support of the local community
- Grants will be distributed to communities throughout Hennepin County

### **Application**

Find and complete the grant application ([www.mnsports.org](http://www.mnsports.org)) addressing the criteria listed above. Partnerships between local government units can include playgrounds co-located on school and park facilities or other operating arrangements. Partnerships with non-profit organizations can include matching funds from a source outside the LGU making the request or volunteering hours for community build installations. Community support can include letters from parent or neighborhood groups, a public process for seeking community input, or other evidence of community engagement with the project.

### **Awards**

Playground awards will be up to \$25,000. The awards are paid as reimbursement to the local government unit after the playground structures have been installed and paperwork showing payment has been submitted.

### **Description and pricing**

Attach a bid from a playground vendor describing the playground equipment and its cost.

## **General Information**

### **Administrator**

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has contracted with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to administer the application, evaluation, contract, and payment process. The Hennepin County Board will make the decisions to award spring equipment and playground grants to applicants in March 2018.

### **Updates**

The latest updates can be found at the MASC website ([www.mnsports.org](http://www.mnsports.org))

### **Deadline**

The application deadline is Monday, March 18 at 4 pm.

To apply, send or deliver three sets of the application to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (1750 105th Avenue NE, Blaine, Minnesota 55449). Also send an electronic copy of the application to [grants@mnsports.org](mailto:grants@mnsports.org). We will contact you to confirm that we have received your application. Please call 763.226.0746 with questions.