



# Hennepin Youth Sports Program Information

## Facility Grants

### Background

Hennepin County is seeking local government units interested in developing facilities for youth sports and recreation. State legislation authorizing the construction 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 \$19 million throughout Hennepin County.

### Purpose

The purpose of the facility grants is to allow municipalities, park districts and school districts to create, expand or improve athletic and recreational facilities to enhance opportunities for youth participation.

### Criteria

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

- Partnerships among local government units and between local government units and non-profit organizations
- Creating new or expanded athletic or recreational opportunities for youth
- Improving the conditions at current athletic or recreational facilities
- Ratio of the amount of matching funds to the total project cost
- Community support for the project
- Number of youth served and their demographic characteristics
- Environmental improvements
- Stewardship of current athletic facilities and financial sustainability of project

## Hennepin Youth Sports Program Information

- Equitable distribution throughout Hennepin County

### Examples

- Baseball and softball fields
- Soccer, football and lacrosse fields
- Tennis courts
- Hockey rinks
- Skate parks
- Gymnasiums
- Lights
- Synthetic turf
- Adaptive recreation facilities
- Pools and water parks

### Partnerships

Hennepin County will favor proposals that create, enhance and support partnerships among public entities as well as those between public entities and private non-profit organizations. Operating agreements that provide opportunities that do not currently exist in the community, bring new users to the facility, or expand capacity or hours will be preferred.

### Awards

Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$300,000. Applicants are required to provide some matching funds of monetary and/or in-kind contributions. The ratio of matching funds to the total project cost will be a criteria considered in awarding the grants.

### Notes

- No awards may be used for programming, operations or maintenance of any facility.
- The awards are paid as reimbursement after the local government unit submits documentation showing the project is completed and the project costs are paid.
- Award recipients are prohibited from converting any portion of the project to non-public or non-recreational uses or transferring ownership of the property without the approval of Hennepin County.
- Recipients may contract operations and maintenance to a non-public entity, but ownership and operational responsibility must remain with the local government unit.
- Charter schools and youth sports associations must enlist a local government unit to submit the application for a facility not located on the property of a municipality, park district or school district.
- If the facility site is privately owned, the owner must agree to a covenant with the local government unit to ensure long-term public access to the facility.

# Equipment Grants

## Background

In 2011, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a separate equipment grant program, which allows local government units and youth sports associations to apply for grants to purchase capital equipment relating to youth athletics or recreation. Up to \$125,000 in total will be granted both in the fall and the spring grant cycles.

## Purpose

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

## Criteria

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

- Partnerships between local government units and non-profit organizations
- Number of youth that will use the equipment and their demographic characteristics
- 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 and nets
- Pitching machines
- Field maintenance equipment
- Backboards
- Blocking sleds and dummies
- Gymnastics and tumbling equipment
- Volleyball standards
- Wrestling mats
- Track and field equipment

To see the full list of equipment that has been awarded, look at the “HYSP Recipients” section at the website.

## Partnerships

A youth sports association or other private non-profit organization must have a local government unit, such as a city, park district or school district, submit the application. The local government unit 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 local government unit or

## Hennepin Youth Sports Program Information

the youth sports association. Youth sports associations should be in good standing within their communities and have a tradition of providing quality sports programming.

Athletic Departments, Community Education, and other subsidiaries of school districts are not partners for the purposes of this program.

### **Awards**

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

### **Notes**

All equipment must be for association or team use – items worn or used by just one person are not allowed. No request for balls, uniforms, gloves, helmets, sticks or bats will receive awards. In addition, sound systems are not eligible for awards.

# 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
- 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**

Attach information 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 \$50,000. 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. Applicants are also encouraged to inform their County Commissioner's office of their application. Commissioner districts can be found at <http://www.hennepin.us/your-government/leadership/find-commissioner>.

## **Website**

All information and any updates can be found at [www.mnsports.org](http://www.mnsports.org).

## **Deadlines**

Please check the website above for the most recent application deadline. Generally, Fall Facility and Equipment Grant Application are due in November and Spring Equipment and Playground Grant Applications are due in March.

## **Contacts**

Applicants who have questions regarding this Request for Proposals may contact:

[Grants@mnsports.org](mailto:Grants@mnsports.org)