

Hennepin County Youth Sports Equipment Grant

Grant Updates 2023

Applications Open: **February 6, 2023 at 9 a.m.**

Solicitation due date: **March 17, 2023 at 4 p.m.**

Closing date for all questions: **March 10, 2023 at 4 p.m.**

Project overview

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 youth activities. In 2011, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved a youth sports 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. A total of \$250,000 annually has been made available for equipment grants.

The County contracts with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) as a third-party grant administrator for youth sports grants.

The Grant

The purpose of the equipment grants is to increase capacity for number of youths served, improve playability, provide enhanced training, and promote stronger relationships between local government units and youth sports associations.

Grant funds are meant to be the last funds for a project; therefore, funding is not meant to be used for fundraising purposes or as seed money for new projects. 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.

A total of \$125,000 has been made available for this Spring 2023 equipment grant cycle. **Grants up to \$10,000 are available.**

To be eligible for the Grant:

- Applicants must be Local Government Units (LGUs). LGUs are defined as governmental entities. For the purposes of this grant, eligible LGUs are municipalities, park districts, public school districts and watershed districts located or operating in Hennepin County. Charter schools and youth sports associations must enlist a local government unit to submit the application.
- LGUs are strongly encouraged to partner with businesses, nonprofits, and other organizations to promote youth activities in their communities. Athletic Departments, Community Education, and other subsidiaries of school districts are not partners for the purposes of this grant program.
- Equipment must be used for youth sports activities in Hennepin County
- The majority of youth served should reside within Hennepin County
- Youth served must be 21 years of age or younger, with preference given to projects focusing on youth 18 years or younger

All equipment must be for association or team use – items worn or used by just one person are not allowed. Equipment must be used for youth sports activities and used by youths aged 21 years or younger. Applications for sound systems will be evaluated based on intended use and applicability to youth sports functions.

Eligible youth sports equipment may include, but is not limited to:

- Goals and nets
- Pitching machines
- Field maintenance equipment for the purpose of supporting playability and game readiness
- Backboards
- Blocking sleds and dummies
- Gymnastics and tumbling equipment
- Volleyball standards
- Wrestling mats
- Track and field equipment
- Balls (basketballs, softballs, soccer and futsal balls, baseballs, volleyballs, etc)
- Bats, rackets, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks
- Ice skates, skating aides
- Helmets and safety equipment that may be sanitized and used by multiple players
- Adaptive sports equipment

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation criteria shall include the following:

- A. Financial need
 - I. Demonstrated provision of programming in financially underserved areas or working with populations who have been financially underserved in Hennepin County
 - II. Lack of funding from internal or external entities available to cover requested equipment costs
 - III. Projects demonstrating financial need will be shown greater preference when evaluated
- B. Number of people served
 - I. Impact on communities that have been underserved
 - II. Impact on populations who have experienced structural and/or institutional inequality
 - III. Number of youths served by the project and the proportion of youths served by the project residing in Hennepin County
 - IV. Projects demonstrating impact and greatest number of youths served will be shown greater preference when evaluated
- C. Partnerships between local units of government and community or non-profit organizations
 - I. Demonstrated collaboration and/or partnership with a community-based agency or non-profit organization
 - II. Projects with community involvement and partnerships will be shown greater preference when evaluated
- D. Leveraging non-Hennepin County funds and in-kind contributions
 - I. Availability of matching funds for youth sports activities
 - II. Ability to leverage non-Hennepin County funds and in-kind contributions
- E. Sustainability
 - I. Capacity of project to increase access to youth sports activities in Hennepin County
 - II. Capacity to promote accessibility and inclusivity
 - III. Projects demonstrating sustainability will be shown greater preference when evaluated
- F. Equitable distribution throughout the County
 - I. To the extent possible, grants will be awarded to a mix of activities and distributed to communities throughout Hennepin County.

Estimated timeline and extension of time

Recommendation of award – May 2023

Anticipated Grant award – June 2023

These dates are subject to revision or cancellation by MASC and the County in their sole and absolute discretion.

Application content

An application template and attestation letter template will be made available by MASC on February 6, 2023.

1. Statement Attestations

The Applicant must attest:

- a. That the Applicant has reviewed and agrees to be bound by the Hennepin County Grant Agreement.
- b. The Local Government Unit (LGU) has reviewed this application and believes it is consistent with its program goals. The LGU is prepared to be the fiscal agent for the award, to disburse the funds, and ensure the funds are used as listed in this application.
- c. Disclosure of any conflicts in accordance with the Solicitation.

2. Application

The Application shall contain the following information (and in the same order):

- a. Application Information
 - i. Legal name of Local Government Unit (LGU):
 - ii. LGU Mailing Address:
 - iii. Applicant Contact and Title, Telephone Number, Email address:
 - iv. Signatory Contact and Title, Telephone Number, Email address (*must have signatory authority for the grant amount and/or amount of the matching funds*):
 - v. Collaborating/Partnership Agency:
 - vi. Collaborating Agency Address:
 - vii. Collaborating Agency Contact and Title, Telephone Number, Email address:
 - viii. Delegation of authority – list contacts and/or agencies to whom you wish to delegate authority:
 - ix. Name of Project:
 - x. Address of project location(s):
 - xi. Number of estimated youth to be served/impacted by project:
- b. Organizational Capacity and Project Information

- i. A profile of the Applicant and/or partner organization, including, as applicable, the size, organizational structure, history, and mission.
 - ii. Describe the relevance of the Grant to your organization's mission or the mission of your partner organization.
 - iii. Describe your proposed project, what the equipment will be used for, and how it relates to youth sports activities.
 - c. Collaborations and Partnerships
 - i. For collaborative groups/project partnerships, discuss the intended role each organization will play within the collaboration.
 - d. Project Impact and Populations Served
 - i. Describe who will be using the equipment, the number of youths who will be using the equipment, whether those residing outside of Hennepin County will be using the equipment, and the proportion of youth served by the project residing in Hennepin County vs. other counties.
 - ii. Describe the impact the grant funds and equipment will have on communities that have been underserved and on populations who have experienced structural and/or institutional inequality.
 - iii. Describe the capacity of your project to promote inclusivity and accessibility.
 - e. Project Cost
 - i. Describe the financial need for grant funds, address whether the equipment/project will impact financially underserved geographic areas or populations
 - ii. Describe availability of matching funds or the lack thereof. Address your ability to leverage non-Hennepin funds and in-kind contributions.
 - iii. Describe the sustainability of the proposed project, describe your youth sports programs and ongoing operating funds.
 - f. Budget
 - i. Total Project Budget
 - ii. Requested Grant Amount and Justification, include descriptions of anticipated items for which you will be requesting reimbursement
 - iii. Matching Funds
 - g. Attachments and Additional Information
 - i. Attestation Letter on official letterhead with signature from LGU representative and/or LGU signatory authority
 - ii. If the Attestation Letter is not signed by the signatory authority, include a signed letter of support from the signatory authority on official LGU letterhead
 - iii. Project budget
 - iv. Resolution from local governmental unit (Optional)
 - v. Community letters of support (Optional)
 - vi. Additional information deemed relevant to the application (Optional)