

# Hennepin County Youth Sports Playground Grant

## *Playground 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. A total of \$250,000 annually has been made available for playground 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 playground grants is to build and improve playground structures throughout Hennepin County. Grant funds may be used for new playground construction, playground renovations or improvements.

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. The awards are paid as reimbursement to the local government unit after the playground structure has been installed and paperwork showing payment has been submitted. **Grants up to \$50,000 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. 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. Athletic Departments, Community Education, and other subsidiaries of school districts are not partners for the purposes of this grant program.
- The playground must be located within Hennepin County

## 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 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 projected youths who would be able to access the playground
- 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
  - II. Ability to leverage non-Hennepin County funds and in-kind contributions
- E. Sustainability
  - I. Capacity to improve playground accessibility and inclusivity
  - II. Community support - 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.
  - III. Environmental impact of proposed playground construction
  - IV. 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

MASC and the County reserve the right to consider the equitable geographic distribution of the award scheme throughout Hennepin County when presenting recommendations to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners for award determination.

## **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 Format**

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

Applications content:

### **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 Playground:
- x. Address of playground:
- xi. Number of estimated youths who will use the playground annually:

### 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 playground project.

### 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 playground and the number of projected youths who will be using the playground on an annual basis.
- ii. Describe how the proposed playground construction or upgrades will promote inclusivity and accessibility.
- iii. Describe the impact the playground will have on communities that have been underserved and on populations who have experienced structural and/or institutional inequality.

- e. Project Cost
  - i. Describe the financial need for grant funds, address whether the 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, include ongoing operating funds, environmental impact, and creation of an accessible playground for your community.
  
- 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
  - iv. Attach a bid from a playground vendor describing the playground equipment and its cost.
  
- 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. Resolution from a local government unit (Example: City Council Resolution)
  - iv. Project budget
  - v. Bid from a playground vendor describing the playground equipment and its cost
  - vi. Demonstration of community support or letters of support (Optional)
  - vii. Additional information deemed relevant to the application (Optional)