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**JAMES METZEN MIGHTY DUCKS**

**Ice Arena Grant Program Information and Guidelines**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The State of Minnesota, acting through its agency, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC), is seeking proposals from interested communities to improve ice arenas. Minnesota communities will be eligible to be awarded grants for improving indoor air quality in ice arenas or eliminating R-22 refrigerant.

Grant applications must come from a local government unit (LGU), a political subdivision of the State. The LGU will be the fiscal agent for the grant funds and will execute the application form and resolution. Other entities can be the owner and/or operator of the ice arena, thus the beneficiary of the grant award. The grants are for reimbursement of costs for completed projects.

The MASC reserves the right to cancel or amend this solicitation if it is considered to be in its best interest.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Applicants should note the specific statutory authority found in [Minnesota Statutes Section 240A.09](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=240A.09), as amended in 2020.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & EXCLUSIONS**

* Replacement of ice-making systems in existing public facilities that use R-22 as a refrigerant with systems that use an alternative non-ozone-depleting refrigerant; OR
* Indoor air quality improvements:
  + "Indoor air quality improvements,” is defined in Minnesota Statute 240A.09 as the renovation or replacement of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems in existing indoor ice arenas whose ice resurfacing and ice edging equipment are not powered by electricity in order to reduce concentrations of carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. The new or renovated systems may include continuous electronic air monitoring devices to automatically activate the ventilation systems when the concentration of carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide reaches a predetermined level.
* Proposals that come from more than one local government unit (LGU).
* Required 50% matching funds from non-state sources.
* Electric ice resurfacers are NOT eligible to receive funding through the 2023 grant program.
* Institutions of higher education are not eligible to receive a grant.

**GRANT TYPES**

There are three types of grants to assist Minnesota communities in:

1. Eliminating R-22 refrigerant for direct systems;
2. Eliminating R-22 refrigerant for indirect systems; and
3. Improving indoor air quality.

The result of a successful grant shall be to establish and improve ice arenas capable of hosting competition and training in ice sports in addition to hockey; as well as maximize the community’s ability to generate economic benefits by promoting ice sports programming for females and males.

**GOALS**

MASC will give priority to projects who address and support the following goals:

1. Encourage communities and organizations to work in partnership to develop and operate ice arenas.
2. Provide increased opportunities for female ice sports participation.
3. Provide increased opportunities for adaptive ice sports participation.
4. Encourage the development of ice centers that serve community sport and non-sport needs and ensure non-hockey groups will also have adequate access to the arenas.
5. Completion of project within 18 months of grant execution.

**PROPOSAL CONTENT**

A complete application will include:

1. Application Form\*
2. Resolution of LGU\*
3. Responses addressing the following tasks presented for the grant type you are seeking (see Grant Types listed above).

\*Forms and sample materials available at <https://www.mnsports.org/mighty-ducks-grant-program/>

**TASKS**

Applicants are asked to complete the following tasks:

1. **Description of Project.** 
   1. **For R-22 Related Grants** Indicate whether the project will replace a direct or indirect refrigeration system and what the new refrigerant will be.
   2. **For Air-Quality Grants** Describe the project and how it will improve indoor air quality, and by how much it will improve. If the project includes adding electronic control/monitoring systems, describe the anticipated energy savings in addition to the improvement to air quality.
2. **Describe Project Timeline.**
3. **Local Financial Commitment**. The LGU is required to provide either documentation of funds secured or demonstrate how it intends to fundraise for the local financial commitment. All awards must be matched by non-state funds equal to or greater than the award amount.
4. **Project Budget & Financial Need.** Submit a complete budget for the project. Describe how grant dollars would complete project funding and source of required matching funds.
5. **Operating Budget.** Describe the annual operating costs of the current refrigeration system and compare it to the annual operating cost for the new system.
6. **Describe Partnerships** between and among local government units and/or private non-profit groups.
7. **Describe Gained Efficiencies.** Explain increases in operating efficiency, both monetary and environmental.
8. **(Optional).** Respondent may submit additional information and documentation if they enhance the goals of the project.

**GRANT AMOUNT**

The MASC is authorized by the 2020 Legislature to appropriate up to $2,000,000 for this program, with limitations on each individual grant amount listed below. Two rounds of grants have already been awarded. Applicants will be applying for the remaining funds available.

1. Direct R-22 Refrigerant Elimination. Communities may apply for up to $500,000 per ice center to replace an existing R-22 directrefrigeration system.
2. Indirect R-22 Refrigerant Elimination. Communities may apply for up to $250,000 ice center to replace an existing R-22 indirect refrigeration system.
3. Indoor Air Quality Improvement. Communities may apply for up to $25,000 per ice center for the replacement, renovation, or addition of automated systems controls for HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality and reduce energy costs.

**EVALUATION & DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS**

The Mighty Ducks Committee, a sub-committee of MASC, and individuals assigned by MASC Commissioners will evaluate the submitted evaluations.

To the extent possible, the MASC will attempt to balance awards between the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and greater Minnesota.

The MASC will make final determinations for grant awards. The MASC will prioritize the grant awards based on the eligibility criteria and responses to tasks.

**STATE CONTRACT RULES**

State of Minnesota contract rules will apply to this project.

This project will be subject to the requirements set forth by the Capital Project Checklist set forth in the State of Minnesota Capital Grants Manualfound at <https://mn.gov/mmb/debt-management/capital-projects/capital-grants-manual/>

**AGENCY CONTACTS**

Prospective responders who have questions regarding this application may contact:

Jayme Murphy Shannon Holbrook

Program Director Fiscal Coordinator

[jmurphy@mnsports.org](mailto:jmurphy@mnsports.org) [sholbrook@mnsports.org](https://nscsport-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jmurphy_nscsports_org/Documents/Documents/sholbrook@mnsports.org)

Interested applicants can review and complete an application on the agency’s website: [https://www.mnsports.org/mighty-ducks-grant-program](https://www.mnsports.org/mighty-ducks-grant-program/)/ or request an application from the above contact.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Submit proposals to Jayme Murphy by Tuesday, February 13, 2024, no later than 5:00 p.m. Send one electronic copy to [jmurphy@mnsports.org](mailto:jmurphy@mnsports.org) and three physical copies to:

MASC – Mighty Ducks Grant

1750 105th Avenue NE

Blaine, Minnesota 55449