



## **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.

Mighty Ducks grants are end-grants, meaning the grant reimburses the grantee after the project has been fully completed. It required the grantee to provide upfront financing during development of the project, with state reimbursement after project completion and occupancy.

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](#), as amended in 2020.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & EXCLUSIONS**

Requirements:

- 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 must come from one local government unit (LGU).
- Required minimum 50% matching funds from non-state sources.

Exclusions:

- Electric ice resurfacers are NOT eligible to receive funding through the 2025 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.

### PROPOSAL CONTENT

A complete application will include:

1. Application Form
2. Resolution of LGU
3. Source and Use of Funds Worksheet
4. 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.**
  - a. **For R-22 Related Grants** Indicate whether the project will replace a direct or indirect refrigeration system and what the new refrigerant will be.
  - b. **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.**
  - a. Include estimated groundbreaking and completion dates.
3. **Local Financial Commitment.** The LGU is required to provide documentation of funds secured. All awards must be matched by non-state funds equal to or greater than the award amount.
4. **Project Budget.** Submit a complete budget for the project.
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 2025 Legislature to appropriate up to \$1,000,000 for this program, with limitations on each individual grant amount listed below.

1. Direct R-22 Refrigerant Elimination. Communities may apply for up to \$500,000 per ice center to replace an existing R-22 direct refrigeration 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, responses to tasks, and project timeline.

### **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 Manual found at <https://mn.gov/mmb/debt-management/capital-projects/capital-grants-manual/>

Prevailing Wage Minnesota Statutes 177.42-44 require that for any construction project funded in whole or in part by state funds, contractors must pay prevailing wages and hours of labor. Prevailing wage is the minimum hourly wage employers must pay certain workers who work on construction projects where state dollars are used to fund the construction. The prevailing wage includes the employer's cost of benefits. Additional information is provided on the Department of Labor and Industry website: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/prevailing-wage-information>.

### **AGENCY CONTACTS**

Prospective responders who have questions regarding this application may contact:

Jayme Murphy  
Program Director  
[jmurphy@mnsports.org](mailto:jmurphy@mnsports.org)

Karah Lodge  
Fiscal Coordinator  
[klodge@mnsports.org](mailto:klodge@mnsports.org)

Interested applicants can review and download application materials on the agency's website: <https://www.mnsports.org/mighty-ducks-grant-program/> or request an application from the above contact.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Submit proposals to [grants@mnsports.org](mailto:grants@mnsports.org) with the subject line: Mighty Ducks Grant Application – [Name of LGU Applicant] by Friday, August 29, 2025, no later than 5:00 p.m. Optionally, hard copy submissions may be sent to the address below (notify MASC when mailed).

MASC – Mighty Ducks Grant  
1750 105th Avenue NE  
Blaine, Minnesota 55449