



Youth Sports Grants – Guidelines

1. **Eligibility**

Applicants must qualify as either a North Carolina city, county, or local school administrative unit or nonprofit organization as follows:

A. **North Carolina City/County Government Unit or Pre-K-12 School:**

A city/county administrative unit (e.g., parks and recreation departments) or Pre-K-12 public, private, or charter school (including preschools, elementary, middle, and secondary schools) based in North Carolina.

B. **Nonprofit Organization**

A nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Organizations must have the ability to adopt the Commission's branding as part of their grant; this includes promoting the Commission as a sponsor in any marketing materials.

C. **Other Applicants**

Organizations that do not meet the eligibility requirements of category A or B may still apply if they are working in partnership with an eligible party. For example: Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Sports Commissions, Local Organizing Committees, and Parent Teacher Associations, etc. may apply on behalf of an eligible organization if they are working in partnership and the application is signed by both parties.

Any staff member of a city/county government unit, Pre-K-12 school, or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization may apply for a Youth Sports Grant.

Reapplying for a Youth Sports Grant

Applicants seeking travel funding are eligible to receive one Youth Sports Grant per sporting team/group per year. Once a sporting team/group or county has been awarded the annual maximum of \$5,000, applications will no longer be accepted for that sporting team/group or county until the following year. To check whether your county has reached its annual \$5,000 award cap, visit the Youth Sports Grant webpage found [HERE](#).

Applicants seeking host funding may reapply. During the review process consideration is given to fund geographically diverse projects, so repeat applications or multiple applications from the same county may be rejected or held for future review.

2. **Funding Guidelines**

Grant awards are dependent upon the type of Youth Sports Grant that is being applied for:

A. **Travel Funding:**

Up to \$5,000 for travel costs associated with established nonprofessional sporting teams/groups competing in in-state or out-of-state team-based athletic competitions. Travel funding may include gas, charter bus costs, hotel accommodation, etc.

Per statute GA 105-113.128(4)a. this option is limited to \$5,000 per county (or sporting team/group), per year. A Youth Sports Grant cannot be awarded to a county that has received \$5,000 until the following year.

B. Host Funding:

Up to \$25,000 to attract State, regional, area, and national sporting events, tournaments, and programs for nonprofessional sporting participants in programs administered by city, county, and local school administrative units, or appropriate 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organizations. Host funding requests may include bid/event rights fees and costs for sports equipment, venues, administration, structures (permanent and temporary), marketing, etc. Applicants may contact GoOutside@nc.gov to check if a request can be funded.

3. Applications

Applications are considered for events that further sports participation and competition-related activities for North Carolina's youth. Applicants should take into consideration the following when completing an application:

A. Application Submission Period:

There is no application deadline, Youth Sports Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are awarded throughout the year, as funds allow. Once a county has been awarded \$5,000 in travel funding, no further applications will be accepted from that county for travel funding until the following year. This county cap does not apply to host funding requests.

B. Application Completion:

Grant applications must be fully completed, with no blank sections, and must be signed and dated by the applicant, the administrator/principal, and accountant/bookkeeper that agree to adhere to our guidelines. Youth Sports applications can be found [HERE](#). Applications are to be submitted to GoOutside@nc.gov, faxed to 919-707-0148 or mailed in (the mailing address can be found on the application).

C. Application Changes:

Should changes (e.g. timeline, location, purchases) need to be made to the original grant application, either before or after a grant has been awarded, the applicant must complete an Amendment Form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov for approval. An amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be used. We cannot accept amendment requests for additional funds once a grant has been awarded and the recipient has been notified. Improper or unapproved expenditure may result in the Commission requiring a refund of the grant award.

D. Applicant Changes:

If an applicant has left the city/county/school administrative unit but the recipient wishes to continue with their grant application, a new point of contact must be detailed on an Amendment Form. Complete the Amendment Form, found [HERE](#), and email it to GoOutside@nc.gov for approval. An amendment request must be approved by the Commission before grant awards can be used. Improper or unapproved expenditure may result in the Commission requiring a refund of the grant award.

4. Grant Selection Process

All grant applications undergo a thorough review process by the Commission. The Commission will consider alignment with statute GA 105-113.128(4)a, our mission and vision, geographic diversity, and community/financial need. Priority shall be extended to applications that focus on

underserved youth. All decisions to award or not award grants are made at the sole discretion of the N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission and are final and not appealable.

5. Grant Awards and Reporting

Timeline

Grant awards will be sent directly to the recipient school system or nonprofit organization within 45 days of the proposed event. If deposits are required in advance of this date, please indicate this on your application or notify staff.

Expenditure

A. Timeline:

Grant awards must be expended within 60 days of receipt and must follow the grant outlined in the approved Youth Sports Grant application. Host grant recipients may require more time for expenditure, which should be detailed in the application and/or communicated to Commission staff. Should an applicant need to adjust their timeline or grant, see 3-D.

B. Improper Expenditure:

Should a grant recipient expend grant funds improperly or without approval, the Commission may require a full refund of the grant award.

Grant Reporting

30 days from the completion of your event you are required to submit proof of payment and photographs. You can view grant reporting information [HERE](#). The following documentation is required:

A. Proof of Payment

For each purchase we require two forms of proof of payment, to include a copy of a check stub and/or account transaction summary AND a receipt, invoice, or purchase order.

B. Reporting Responsibility

Applicants, administrators/principals, and/or accountants/bookkeepers are responsible for collecting, collating, and providing proof of payment.

C. Photographs

Recipients must submit digital photographs of youth participating in the event, that we may use on our website, social media, and in our print and other marketing materials.

Unspent Funds

Unspent grant funds must be returned to the Commission within 30 days of grant completion. Checks must be mailed to:

N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission
1715 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1715