



Office of Children and Family Services

Kathy Hochul
Governor

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Local Commissioners Memorandum

Transmittal:	23-OCFS-LCM-02
To:	Municipal Youth Bureau Directors
Issuing Division/Office:	Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success
Date:	January 18, 2023
Subject:	Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding
Contact Person(s):	See section V.
Attachments:	Funding Allocations for Program Year January 1, 2023- September 30, 2023

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Commissioner Memorandum (LCM) is to advise municipal youth bureaus on the availability of youth sports and education opportunity funding (“Sports Opportunity Funding”).

This LCM provides notification of the 2023 program year allocation January 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, for Sports Opportunity Funding.

II. Background

Part Y of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2021 legalized mobile sports wagering in New York State. Subdivision 8 of section 1367 of the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law provides that \$5 million of state tax proceeds from mobile sports wagering are to be used to support annual grants for sports activities and education for youth. A grantmaking fund was created under the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in the SFY 2022-2023 budget to provide awards to support sports programs for underserved children and youth younger than 18. The grants focus on supporting youth development via local nonprofit organizations and/or municipal-operated youth programs.

The allocation for this grant program provides \$3.75 million from the state tax imposed on mobile sports wagering for the period of January 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023.

III. Program Implications

Each municipal youth bureau will receive an allocation for the Sports Opportunity Funding to serve children and youth ages 6-17 based on the population of eligible youth in the county. These funds will be approved by OCFS and claimed in the same manner as the current Youth Development Program funding. Sports Opportunity Funding awards are guided by the following principles:

- Sports are effective tools in positive youth development and family engagement.
- Sports improve the lives of young people by promoting positive social, emotional, health and educational outcomes and have important life-long effects.
- Sports enable opportunities for young people to thrive through leadership roles.
- Coaching education greatly improves young people's sports experience and development outcomes.

Funded programs must provide a variety of sports for a broad range of youth in under-resourced communities. OCFS encourages a wide and flexible definition of sports that includes organized activities with movement, including physical fitness activities including but not limited to yoga, hiking, dance, and active outdoors pursuits.

To ensure that funding is going to the intended population, municipal youth bureaus must distribute funds based on local need,¹ giving consideration to factors including but not limited to the following:

- Historically under-resourced communities
- Public housing
- High rates of family homelessness
- Opportunity Zones or neighborhoods/cities/areas deemed "low-income" via externally available tools like the New York State Council on Children and Families Kids' Well-Being Indicator Clearinghouse, etc.
- Marginalized communities or groups with higher barriers to participation in sports (e.g., youth with disabilities, girls, transgender/gender non-binary youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning identified youth)
- Federally and/or New York State-recognized tribes and tribal organizations
- Neighborhoods that experience higher rates of crime and violence and poorer performing schools

Additionally, municipal youth bureaus should give priority consideration to programs that serve youth identifying as Black, indigenous persons, and people of color and/or providers of adaptive sports for youth with physical disabilities.

All funded programs must aim to foster the following:

- Educational connection and achievement – More youth attending and completing school with increased attainment, including programs that have collegiate placement success
- Physical health and well-being – Increasing physical activity and positive relationships to one's body and physical activity
- Mental health and well-being – Improving outcomes related to youth mental health and social and emotional skills development and connectedness
- Employment – Increasing qualifications and skills, such as collective problem solving, teamwork and dispute resolution, which help prepare youth for suitable employment
- Community cohesion – Breaking down barriers to reduce discrimination, crime and violence in communities and help young leaders emerge

¹ Data sources to consult in assessing local need include but are not limited to the New York State Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, <https://www.ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/kids-well-being-indicators-clearinghouse-kwic/>; public data from the New York State Education Department, <https://data.nysed.gov/>; and youth arrests data from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice System, <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/juvenilearrests/index.htm>.

Eligibility and Funding

Municipal youth bureaus will contract with local organizations, municipalities and/or local or municipal youth bureaus directly for up to \$50,000 per program. Organizations that serve multiple areas through different programs may be funded above \$50,000. Funding may provide general operating dollars to give programs flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming. Line-item budgets should focus on programming costs, including but not limited to the following:

- Coaches/instructors/direct service staff/mentors (including training/professional development)
- Equipment
- Educational programming costs
- Facility/field and/or space cost
- Maximum of 15% of funds for administrative/overhead costs for the implementing agency only

Programs eligible for funding must meet the criteria below:

- Provide structured sports activities for youth ages 6-17
- Serve youth in New York State
- Demonstrate basic competency in the areas of governance, monitoring and evaluation, partnership and financial stewardship
- Have a child protection policy in place that includes adherence to local city, agency, school district and state child protection guidelines
- Collect registration data, including participant demographic information, as required by OCFS in a manner that allows for accurate reporting of anonymized aggregate data

Organizations and activities not eligible for funding are the following:

- For-profit organizations or businesses
- Private foundations, as defined in section 509(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code
- Organizations that discriminate based on age, ethnicity/race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or other disability, national origin or any protected characteristic under local, state and/or federal law
- Research or project planning activities
- Support for elite or private sports camps, programs, or teams
- Endowments, memorials, budget deficits, or fundraising activities
- Religious organizations whose sports programs do not have a secular and community focus
- Lobbying, political, or fraternal activities
- Capital projects

Touchstone Life Areas and Services, Opportunities and Supports (SOS) in the Quality Youth Development System (QYDS)

Municipal youth bureaus will be required to report demographics and outcomes through QYDS. The Life Area and SOS selections that will be required in QYDS for the Sports Opportunity Funding are as follows:

- Life Area: 2PEH Physical and Emotional Health
- SOS: 0232 Year-Round/Seasonal Activities
- Performance measures:
 - How Much: 0232A.1 # of youth participating (unduplicated)
 - How Well: 0232B.4 % of youth completing the program
 - Better Off: 0232C.1 #/% reporting they have improved their ability to socialize/interact with peers/family/other members of the community

IV. Effective Date

This directive is effective as of January 1, 2023, and relates to programs operating from January 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. Claims for this period are due by March 31, 2024.

V. Contacts

For questions or technical assistance please use the subject line Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding and email YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov.

/s/ Nina Aledort, Ph.D.

Issued by:

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Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success