

Youth Athletic Facilities Grants

Invitation to Submit a Letter of Intent

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recently completed evaluating 2016 grant applications for the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program. Now, [RCO is accepting letters of intent to submit a grant application for potential 2017-2018 funds until 5 p.m. October 25, 2016.](#) Submitting a letter of intent is not a prerequisite for applying should grant funding become available. RCO uses these letters of intent to inform the Legislature of the outstanding needs and to guide its request for funding of the YAF program.

Submit a letter of intent by logging into [PRISM Online](#), starting an application and choosing the program entitled Youth Athletic Facilities-Letter of Intent. Complete all of the required data fields and submit your letter. If you do not have a PRISM login, visit [RCO's Web site](#) to request one.

Who can apply?

Cities, counties, park districts, nonprofit sports organizations, and Native American tribes.

What types of projects are being considered?

- Development of new athletic facilities
- Renovation of existing athletic facilities (called development in PRISM Online)
- Land acquisition for athletic facilities
- Combination of land acquisition and development or renovation of athletic facilities

An athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and excludes playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and open areas used for non-athletic play.

The program priority is to serve people through the age of 18 who participate in sports and athletics. However, creating facilities that serve people of all ages, including amateur adult use, is strongly encouraged. To achieve multi-generation use, applicants may submit proposals for facilities sized for adults, but which primarily serve youth.

Typical YAF projects include the following:

- Outdoor athletic fields, such as baseball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, and softball
- Outdoor sport courts such as tennis, basketball, handball, bocce, and ice hockey
- Pools for competitive events
- Areas associated with track and field events
- "In bounds" items such as playing surfaces, goals, nets, bases, pitching mounds, fences and backstops for softball and baseball, irrigation, drainage, and field lighting
- Support elements such as landscaping, restrooms, drinking fountains, bleachers, bike racks, scoreboards, signs, roads, fire lanes, and parking lots

What are the minimum and maximum grant amounts?

The minimum grant request is \$25,000.

The maximum grant request amount is undetermined at this time, but RCO is considering a maximum amount of \$250,000. Please request the amount you need but be sure you can provide at least a one-to-one matching share. For example, if you request \$200,000 in grant funds, you must provide at least \$200,000 in match.

When will funds be available?

There are no funds available at this time. RCO is requesting funds from the state Legislature based on direction provided by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. If funds are appropriated by the Legislature, applicants may submit a full application when RCO solicits proposals in 2017-2018.

I just completed the YAF grant application process, is this different?

Yes, this is a separate request for projects. YAF applications that already have gone through RCO's evaluation process in 2016 will be submitted to the Governor in November of this year for consideration in his state capital budget request.

Do you have questions?

Further information about the YAF program may be found [here](#).

If you have questions about this solicitation, please contact your RCO grants manager. Select this [link](#) to find the grants manager assigned to your county or call us at (360) 902-3000, TDD (360) 902-1996.