



Youth Athletic Facilities

Recreation and Conservation Office

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Who May Apply?

- Cities
- Counties
- Nonprofits involved in community athletic activities
- Park districts
- Tribes

Funding Source

Washington voters approved the program in 1998 as part of Referendum 48, which provided funding for building the Seattle Seahawks's stadium. After the initial funding was spent, the Washington State Legislature, in 2015, provided funding through the sale of state bonds.

Leveraging State Dollars

Applicants must contribute a match that equals the amount of the grant request. The match is reduced for some communities in need.

Providing Places to Recreate

Washingtonians are an active bunch. Nearly 50 percent of the state's population participates in ball sports, according to a 2020 survey. Those participants spend more than \$445 million annually on equipment and trip-related expenses, creating jobs across the state.¹

In addition to helping the economy, participating in sports can improve the health and potentially slow the rate of obesity in the state's residents.

Purpose

To provide fields, sports courts, and other athletic facilities to meet the needs of Washingtonians, the Youth Athletic Facilities grant program was created to offer funding to acquire and improve community athletic facilities.

The grants must be used for outdoor facilities for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and exclude playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and open areas used for non-athletic play.

The program's goal is to enhance facilities that serve people through the age of 18 but compatible, multi-generation use, is strongly encouraged.

Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded

The grant process is open and competitive. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications in even-numbered years. Committees, made of up people experienced in recreation issues, score projects in small and large grant categories, and submit ranked lists to the board for consideration. The board then submits prioritized lists of projects to the Governor and the Legislature for approval and funding.

¹Mojica, J., Fletcher, A., 2020. Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2020 Update. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA, p. 35.