

# County Commissioners of Kent County, MD Youth Sports Equipment Grant Program

## Background

Effective July 1, 2015, the Kent County Board of County Commissioners approved a separate equipment grant program, which invites youth sports organizations to apply for grants to purchase capital equipment relating to youth athletics or recreation. Funding will be granted annually in two grant cycles – Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter, with the total funding available varying each year.

## Purpose

The purpose of the equipment grants will be to serve a need, improve youth safety, enhance youth skill development, and promote stronger relationships and support between local government and youth sports organizations.

## Criteria / Requirements

These criteria will be among those considered in evaluating equipment grant applications:

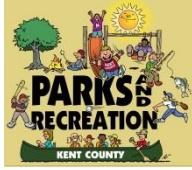
- Partnership between local government and youth sports organizations
- Number of youth served by the organization
- Ratio of the amount of matching funds to the total cost of the equipment
- To the extent possible, grants will be awarded to a variety of recreational sports organizations who serve Kent County youth
- A bona-fide youth sports organization, permanently based in Kent County and serving Kent County Youth, must submit the application
- The governing body of the organization pledges to act as the fiscal agent for the grant and agrees to ensure the grant is used for its intended purpose
- The equipment purchased shall be owned by the youth sports organization
- For organized youth sport leagues utilizing County athletic fields: A representative of the organization must have attended the annual Youth Sports League Presidents' meeting

## Equipment Examples (illustrative only and not inclusive of all eligible equipment)

Pitching Machines/Mounds	Uniforms (Returned at End of Season)
Field Maintenance Equipment	Goalie/Catcher Equipment/Protective Padding
Nets, Mats	Helmets, Masks
Backboards	Track and Field Equipment
Blocking Sleds and Dummies	

\*\*Recurring/annual operating expenses are not eligible to be funded. Expenses that occur every few to several years, after the life-span of equipment has expired (or equipment is deemed unsafe/unusable), for items such as helmets, goalie/catcher equipment, face masks, pitching apparatus, protective pads, uniforms, etc. – all of which shall be organization owned. Items worn or used by just one person for one season and or is distributed to the player after the season concludes is strictly prohibited. No request for balls or gloves, sticks or bats will receive awards\*\*

**\*Other youth sports equipment funding requests may be considered at the discretion of the Grant Administrator\***



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## Partnerships

Youth sports organizations must be in good standing within Kent County, with the Department of Parks and Recreation, and have a tradition of providing quality sports and or recreation programming.

## Awards

Awards will generally be up to \$5,000 per organization per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). Matching funds are required for rating the application, although there is no minimum match figure that must be adhered to. Priority will be given to organizations who demonstrate at least 50% in matching funds. Funds will not be granted for the full amount of the equipment/budget. The award is paid to the organization, based on required supporting documents (official \*quotes) submitted with the application for funding. Proof of the purchase shall be required.

*\*A minimum of three quotes are required with the application for funding.*

## Submission Instructions

Only one award per bona-fide youth sports organization will be granted per fiscal year. Only one proposal per bona-fide youth sports organization will be considered per fiscal year. The fiscal year is in accordance with Kent County Government, July 1 - June 30. The same proposal/equipment cannot be funded twice within a five year period. Proposals must be submitted with the budget justification outline, narrative with description of need and positive outcomes, and any other documents that support the proposal, all by the applicable funding cycle deadline. ***Submission must be in the format provided in the application or it may be rejected. Application must be submitted under the signature of the organization leader (i.e. President).***

## Grant Administrator

The Department of Parks and Recreation will administer the application, evaluation, contract, and payment process. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will make decisions for awards and award amounts. Should additional information be needed for consideration of a proposal, the organization may be required to appear before the Advisory Board at their regularly scheduled meeting held during the month of the submission deadline (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in November or 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May at 6pm at the Kent County Community Center).

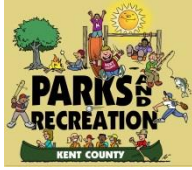
## Grant Funding Cycles / Submission Deadlines

### ***Spring/Summer Cycle (Soccer, Field Hockey, Football/Cheer, Basketball, Other Qualifying Sport)***

Deliver original plus (1) copy of the application/ supporting documents by 3pm on the first business day in May (for Fall/Winter sports) to Kent County Parks and Recreation, 11041 Worton Rd, P.O. Box 67, Worton, MD 21678. ***Also send an electronic copy of the application by the same deadline to [mbutler@kentgov.org](mailto:mbutler@kentgov.org).***

### ***Fall/Winter Cycle (Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Other Qualifying Sport)***

Deliver original plus (1) copy of the application/supporting documents by 3pm on the first business day in November (for Spring/Summer sports) to Kent County Parks and Recreation, 11041 Worton Rd, P.O. Box 67, Worton, MD 21678. ***Also send an electronic copy of the application by the same deadline to [mbutler@kentgov.org](mailto:mbutler@kentgov.org).***



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## Notice

In accordance with Kent County statutes, regulations, and Department of Parks and Recreation policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination, under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from KCPR, although some programs may have special requirements that may limit eligibility.

## Award Announcements

Awardees will be notified in writing of an award no later than the last business day in the month of the submission deadline. Generally, award decisions will be made at regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings in November and May (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday).

## Acceptance and Acknowledgement

Awardees must accept the award and sign an acceptance and acknowledgement, indicating that the organization agrees to:

- ✓ Supply Kent County Parks and Recreation with proof of purchase of the items approved in the application within 60 days of receipt of the award;
- ✓ Store the equipment in a secure location (preferable the Youth Sports Equipment Shed at Worton Park);
- ✓ Ensure the equipment is properly used, maintained, and cared for by all users to obtain the maximum life expectancy;
- ✓ Collect all equipment purchased with grant funds from participants or facilities at the end of each season.

## Contacts

Applicants who have questions regarding this request for proposals may contact:

1. Devon, Standard, Rec. Program Coordinator, [dstandard@kentgov.org](mailto:dstandard@kentgov.org), 410-778-1957
2. Jill Coleman, Recreation Supervisor, [jcoleman@kentgov.org](mailto:jcoleman@kentgov.org), 410-810-5948
3. Myra Butler, Director, [mbutler@kentgov.org](mailto:mbutler@kentgov.org), 410-778-1986

\*REVISED 3/19/2018\*