



Office of Children and Family Services

Kathy Hochul
Governor

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Sheila J. Poole
Commissioner

Local Commissioners Memorandum

Transmittal:	22-OCFS-LCM-09
To:	Municipal Youth Bureau Directors
Issuing Division/Office:	Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success
Date:	May 3, 2022
Subject:	Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding
Contact Person(s):	Matt Beck, Director of the Bureau of Youth Development ocfs.sm.YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov
Attachments:	SFY 2021-22 Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocations

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 2022 calendar year allocation for Youth Sports and Education 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 established that 1% of state tax proceeds from mobile sports wagering were to be used to support grants for sports activities and education for youth. A grantmaking fund was created under OCFS in the SFY 2021-2022 budget for the purpose of providing annual awards to support sports programs for underserved children and youth under the age of 18. The focus of these grants will be to support youth development via local nonprofit organizations.

The allocation for this grant program provides \$1 million from the state tax imposed on mobile sports wagering in the first fiscal year in which mobile sports wagering licensees commenced operations and accepted mobile sports wagers (2021-2022). This is a brief background or history of the topic.

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. No county will receive less than \$5,000. These new 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, when delivered well by programs and minimum quality measures are met.
- Sports improve the lives of young people by promoting positive social, emotional, health, and educational outcomes and have important life-long impacts.
- Sports enable opportunities for young people to succeed economically through leadership roles.
- Coaching education greatly improves the sports experience and development outcomes of young people.

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, physical fitness, and engagement outdoors, such as yoga, hiking, dance, etc.

To ensure that funding is going to the intended population, municipal youth bureaus must identify indicators used during planning, including but not limited to indicators¹ such as:

- 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 Census Bureau, USDA income eligibility, 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.

Municipal youth bureaus should give priority consideration to programs that serve youth identifying as Black, Indigenous, people of color and/or providers of adaptive sports for youth with physical disabilities that aim to foster the following development outcomes:

- 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

¹ Data sources include 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>.

- 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, that help prepare youth for suitable employment
- Community cohesion – Breaking down barriers to reduce discrimination, crime, and violence in communities and help young leaders emerge

Eligibility and Funding

Municipal youth bureaus will contract with local organizations 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:

- 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

Programs eligible for funding must meet the criteria below:

- Provide structured sports activities for youth ages 6-17.
- Serve youth in New York State.
- Be certified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- Be in good standing with the New York State Charities Bureau.
- 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 such a fashion as to be able to accurately report anonymized aggregate data.

Organizations and activities not eligible for funding:

- 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, except eligible facility upgrades.

Touchstone Life Areas and Services, Opportunities, and Supports (SOS) in 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 Youth Sports and Education 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, 2022, and the first year of funding will be for programs operating from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Claims for this period are due by June 30, 2023.

V. Contact

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

/s/ Nina Aledort, Ph.D., LMSW

Issued by:

Name: Nina Aledort, Ph.D., LMSW

Title: Deputy Commissioner

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

Attachment 1: SFY 2021-22 Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocations

Youth Bureau	21-22 Allocations	Youth Bureau	21-22 Allocations
Albany County	\$17,254	Onondaga County	\$22,703
Allegany County	\$6,960	Ontario County	\$8,876
Broome County	\$12,848	Orange County	\$22,082
Cattaraugus County	\$7,915	Orleans County	\$6,349
Cayuga County	\$7,573	Oswego County	\$9,458
Chautauqua County	\$9,634	Otsego County	\$7,342
Chemung County	\$7,981	Putnam County	\$8,366
Chenango County	\$6,605	Rensselaer County	\$10,672
Clinton County	\$8,007	Rockland County	\$20,325
Columbia County	\$6,704	Saratoga County	\$12,809
Cortland County	\$7,159	Schenectady County	\$10,843
Delaware County	\$6,382	Schoharie County	\$6,063
Dutchess County	\$15,542	Schuyler County	\$5,554
Erie County	\$38,141	Seneca County	\$6,194
Essex County	\$6,021	St. Lawrence County	\$9,424
Franklin County	\$6,774	Steuben County	\$8,372
Fulton County	\$6,785	Suffolk County	\$59,212
Genesee County	\$6,989	Sullivan County	\$7,745
Greene County	\$6,451	Tioga County	\$6,653
Hamilton County	\$5,099	Tompkins County	\$10,079
Herkimer County	\$7,152	Ulster County	\$10,770
Jefferson County	\$9,812	Warren County	\$6,974
Lewis County	\$5,977	Washington County	\$6,951
Livingston County	\$7,510	Wayne County	\$8,127
Madison County	\$7,750	Westchester County	\$41,214
Monroe County	\$32,725	Wyoming County	\$6,253
Montgomery County	\$6,865	Yates County	\$6,023
Nassau County	\$55,118	ROS Total	\$700,953
Niagara County	\$12,186	New York City	\$299,047
Oneida County	\$13,602	Total	\$1,000,000