



Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants Program

Grants Management and Administration, Sarah Breyette

Spring 2026 pre-application conference meeting agenda

Program background

Spring 2026 grant cycle

Hennepin County Supplier Portal

Award and post-award process

Questions

Program background



- The Youth Activities Grants program started in 2009
- Provides grants to local governments to support youth activities in Hennepin County
- Funded by a portion of the Twins Ballpark sales tax

Grant initiatives & opportunities

- **Sports grants**

- Play areas (facilities, playgrounds, play spaces)
- Sports equipment

- **Water safety grants**

- Lifeguard services
- Free or reduced-cost swim lesson grants, administered by the USA Swimming Foundation

- **Arts & music grants**

Requests for applications (RFA)

- RFA section 1.1 Project overview
 - Spring 2026 funding allocation
- RFA section 1.2 The Grant
 - Eligibility, partnerships, grant opportunities, and grant expenses
- RFA section 2.4 Evaluation panel and criteria
 - Evaluation criteria



1.1 Project overview

- Approximately 1.3 million dollars have been allocated
- Anticipating 15-30 grant awards across all opportunities
- Actual number of awards will be based on requests received and availability of funding

1.2.1 Grant eligibility

- Applicant must be a **Local Government Unit (LGU)** located at least partially within the geographic boundaries of Hennepin County. For the purposes of the grant, LGUs are defined as:
 - Municipalities
 - Public School Districts
 - Park Districts
 - Watershed Districts

Community organizations cannot apply on their own and must enlist an LGU to apply on their behalf. Partnerships with community organizations are encouraged.

1.2.1 Grant eligibility (cont.)

- The majority of young people benefitting from grant funding must reside within Hennepin County.
- The majority of young people benefitting from grant funding must be:
 - Ages 18 years and younger OR participating in U4-19 sports for Play Area and Equipment grants
 - Ages 21 years and younger for Lifeguard Services grants
 - Ages 24 years and younger for Arts and Music grants

1.2.1 Grant eligibility (cont.)

- Grant funded projects, including programming and services, must take place in Hennepin County
- Purchases made with grant funds may not be kept by individual participants and must reside in and be stored in Hennepin County
- Applicant **may submit no more than ten applications across all grant opportunities**. Each application must be submitted as a **separate, unique bid** in the Hennepin County Supplier Portal.

1.2.3 Play area grant

Supports opportunities for youth ages 18 and younger to participate in sports and play by providing funding for the creation, expansion, and improvement of athletic facilities, recreational facilities, playgrounds, and other play spaces

Grants up to \$300,000 are available.



1.2.3 Examples of eligible projects

Athletic and recreational facilities



Playgrounds and other play spaces



1.2.3 Equipment grant

Supports opportunities for youth ages 18 and younger to participate in sports and other recreational activities by providing funding to purchase sports equipment

Grants up to \$10,000 are available.



1.2.3 Examples of eligible projects

General sports equipment



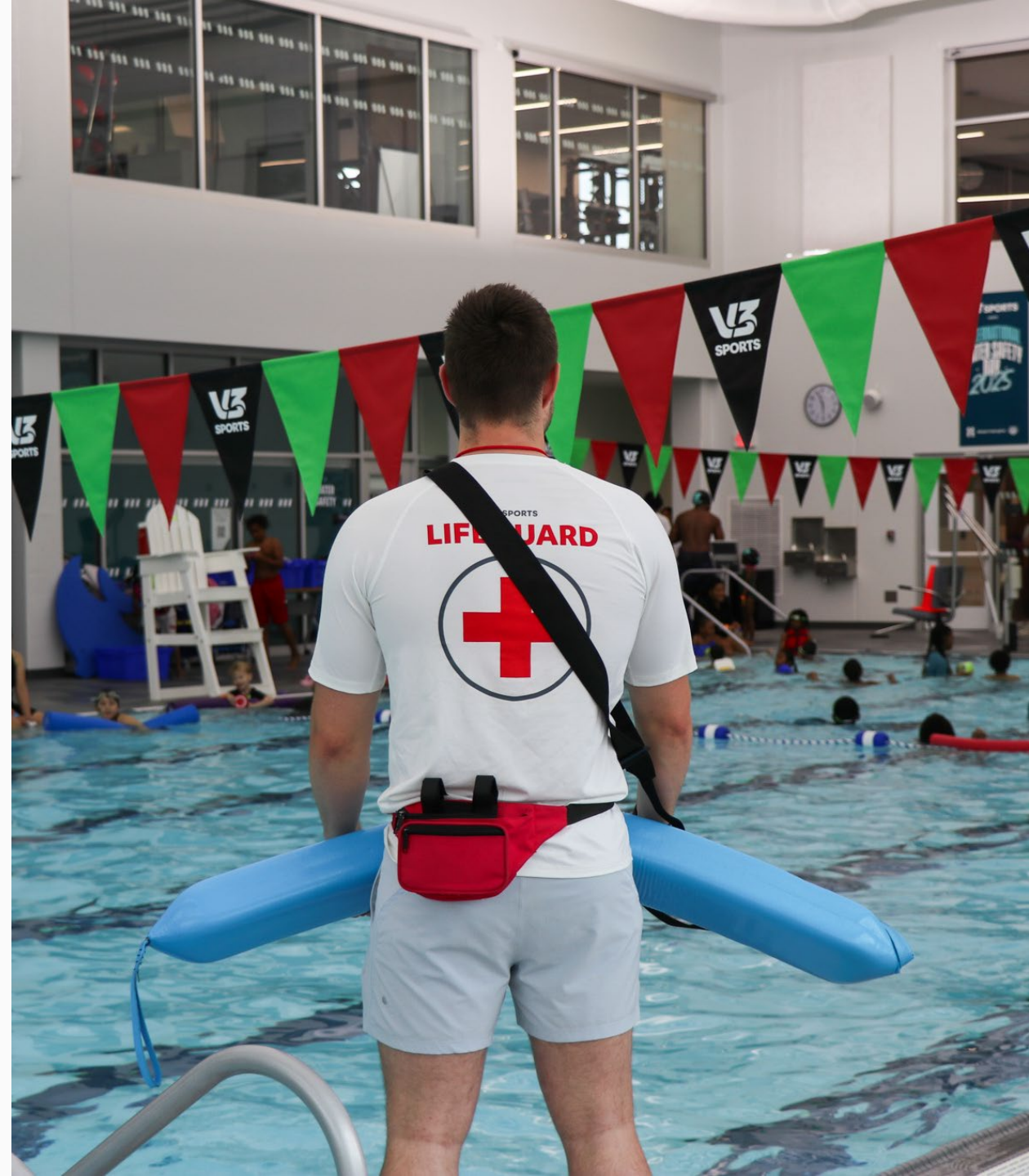
Adaptive sports equipment



1.2.3 Lifeguard services grant

Supports lifeguard services for youth ages 21 and younger by funding creative, innovative, and sustainable solutions to the youth lifeguard shortage through recruitment, training, hiring, and retention efforts

Grants up to \$50,000 are available.



1.2.3 Arts & music grant

Supports opportunities for youth ages 24 and younger to participate in arts and music projects by providing funding for arts and music supplies, programming, and education

Grants up to \$25,000 are available.



1.2.3 Semiquincentennial recognition

for Arts & Music projects only

The HCYAG program will be participating in statewide efforts to recognize the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Themes include:

- *Power of Place*: Highlighting stories, histories, and relationships to land, communities, and environments in Hennepin County
- *We the People*: Exploration of belonging, identity, and participation in civic and community life, including whose stories are represented in the shared history of Hennepin County
- *Unfinished Revolutions*: Reflection on ongoing work toward equity, inclusion, and justice, and how movements for change continue to shape our collective future

Participation is entirely optional and has no impact on grant eligibility or evaluation.

Please note your desire to participate and explain how your project meets these themes in application question 4.5.

1.2.4 Grant expenses

- Guidance on common questions related to costs
- Non-exhaustive list
- If selected for award, project budget may be revised to remove expenses deemed ineligible

Ineligible Costs for All Grant Opportunities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect costs including, but not limited to, general operating expenses, administrative costs, overhead costs, insurance fees, fundraising expenses, and other costs associated with administration or programming • Application costs, including preparation, submission, and working with HCYAG program staff • Staffing costs including wages and benefits (<i>eligible only for Lifeguard Services grants</i>) • Vehicles (including utility and lawn maintenance vehicles), vehicle accessories, and vehicle maintenance • Personal transportation costs, such as gas and mileage reimbursements • Per-diem expenses, such as meals, lodging, and incidentals • Professional, consulting, and/or legal fees • Gift cards for staff or youth • Food, beverage, transportation costs, supplies, and/or equipment not intended for youth 			
Grant-Specific Ineligible Costs			
<i>Play Areas</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Lifeguard Services</i>	<i>Arts & Music</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports and/or recreational equipment and supplies (see Equipment grant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables, chairs, tents • Sound systems • Disposable, single-use items • First aid equipment and supplies • Water stations and hydration equipment • Sanitation wipes and cleaning equipment • Lawn maintenance equipment <p>Cannot exceed 10% of the total project budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment storage • Training materials • Marketing materials • Shipping/freight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items or costs that do not have a direct association with youth lifeguard recruitment, training, hiring, and retention <p>Cannot exceed 10% of the total project budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and beverage intended for youth • Local transportation costs for youth and required chaperones • Uniforms or work apparel for youth • Facility/pool rental • Marketing materials • Shipping/freight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial stipends for young people <p>Cannot exceed 10% of the total project budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees for digital software and tools • Food and beverage intended for youth • Local transportation costs for youth and chaperones needed to ensure safety • Venue rental • Marketing and promotional materials • Shipping/freight



2.4 Evaluation criteria

- Degree to which the project ensures accessibility for all, including underserved populations
- Number of youths served by the project
- Degree to which the project demonstrates feasibility
- Demonstration of community need for the project
- Degree to which the program is sustainable over time

2.4 Evaluation criteria (cont.)

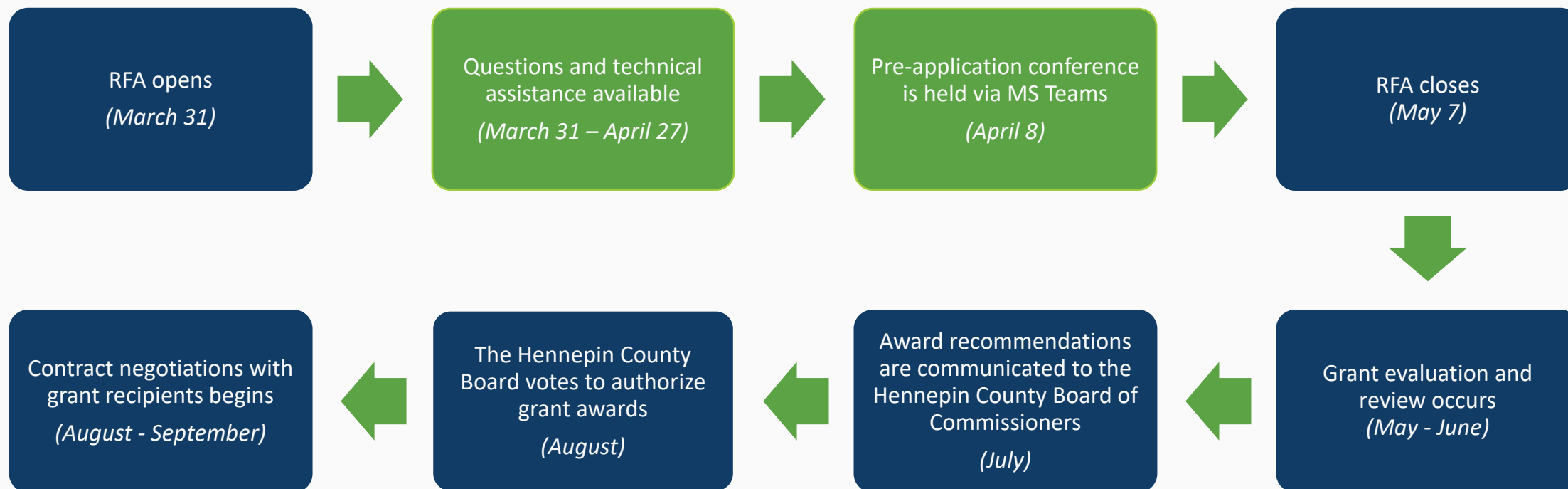
- Consideration of geographic distribution of projects
- Demonstration of financial need for the project
- Degree to which additional funding or donations have been secured
- Partnerships between local government units and local organizations

Addendum to the RFA

- All questions and technical assistance requests must be submitted before the deadline on **April 27, 2026 at noon**
- Q&As will be consolidated, paraphrased, organized by topic, and published as an Addendum to the RFA on the Supplier Portal
 - *Anticipated posting date: April 30, 2026 (subject to change)*

Award and post-award process

Grant award process



Post-award: Grant agreements

Grant agreement drafting, negotiation, and execution:

- HCYAG Program Manager works with LGU Grant Contact
- Grant agreements identify compliance requirements including term lengths (1-2 years), grant budget, site visits, reporting, and signage
 - For play area projects that are not on public land, a declaration of land use restrictive covenant will also be required
- *Sample grant agreement and guidelines for declaration of land use restrictive covenants* are provided on Supplier Portal for reference

Post-award: Partnerships

When there is a community organization involved in the project:

- HCYAG works directly with the LGU, not the partner organization
- LGU is the fiscal agent for the award responsible for:
 - Coordinating reports and site visits with the partner organization
 - Disbursing the funds to the partner organization
 - Ensuring the funds are used for the purposes listed in the grant agreement

Post-award: Monitoring

- Reporting requirements
 - Progress *and* final reports required for Play Area, Lifeguard Services, Arts & Music grants
 - Final reports required for Equipment grants
- Site visits may be conducted for all grant opportunities
- Notification of public events such as ribbon cuttings, grand openings, and/or performances required



