

**RALPH C. WILSON, JR.
LEGACY FUND FOR
YOUTH SPORTS**



Photo by Rob Daniels

Agenda

- History of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds
- Objectives and other grant requirements
- Timeline
- Application process, questions, and decision criteria
- Questions

History of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds

- Established in 2016
- About \$2+M in grants has been distributed since 2016.
- \$275,000 will be distributed in the 2025-2026 grant cycle



Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.

RECAP: 2024-2025 CYCLE

Applications

17

*Amount
Requested*

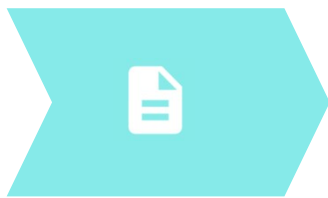
\$328,500

*Grants
Awarded*

13 Grants
\$241,500

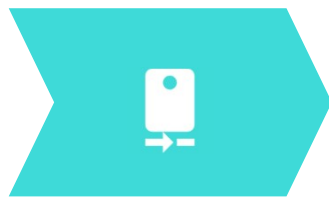
2025-2026 GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE

Nov 4



Application
Opens

Dec 1



Application
Closes

Dec - Jan



Staff review
proposals

Feb - Mar



- Recommendations presented to RCWJr Board of Directors for approval

Youth Sports Grant Opportunity



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Purpose

To support organizations or projects that provide children (5-13) in Monroe County access to quality sports and recreation experiences.

Requests to build collaborations among organizations are encouraged.

Eligibility Criteria

- Any 501(c)3 nonprofit organization or organization with a 501c3 fiscal sponsor, government entity or school in Monroe County that serve youth ages 5 – 13,
- Projects must align with one or more of the “plays” listed in the State of Play WNY report*,
- Programs must be open to the general community and accessible to any child who wants to participate, regardless of school or organizational affiliation.

Objectives

“Plays” or objectives from State of Play WNY
Report:

- Ask kids what they want.
- Reintroduce free play.
- Encourage sport sampling.
- Revitalize in-town leagues.
- Think small.
- Design for development.
- Train all coaches.
- Emphasize prevention

Not eligible for funding

- Multi-year requests
- Tackle football programs
- School-Based Sports:
 - Scholastic sports (school vs. school competitions),
 - Intramural programs within a single school,
 - School-sponsored sports teams
- Travel teams and transportation expenses for out-of-area activities are not eligible for consideration
- Sports Equipment – separate funding opportunity

Fiscal Sponsorship Required Documentation



Fiscal Sponsor Follow Up Section:

- Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement Form
- Fiscal Sponsor Acknowledgement Documentation:
 - Copy of Board meeting minutes where the fiscal sponsor's Board of Directors approved the fiscal sponsorship OR
 - Letter signed by the fiscal sponsor board chair or authorized representative acknowledging the fiscal sponsor relationship.
- Fiscal Sponsor - Board of Director List
- Annual Operating Budget for your organization

Common Question Section:

- Fiscal Sponsor - Annual Operating Budget
- Fiscal Sponsor - Audited Financial Statements or 990

Decision Criteria

Review will include consideration for:

- Alignment to the objectives of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.

Youth Sports Grants:

- Children (5-13) in Monroe County are provided access to quality sports and recreation experiences.
- Requests should support youth sports and recreation activities and related, small-scale capital needs such as equipment or field and stadium needs within Monroe County.
- Organizational capacity or past experience
- Project readiness
- Impact on the intended audience
- Outcomes and how they will be measured
- Level of collaboration or leverage (*i.e., other funding sources and/or community partners*)

Next Steps

- Apply online through our grant portal by **4pm on Monday, Dec 1st.**
- Additional information and a link to the online application can be found online at : www.racf.org/grant/ralph-c-wilson-jr-legacy-fund-for-youth-sports/



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Additional Resources

Sports Equipment Grant Opportunities



Good Sports: Dedicated to providing brand-new sports equipment to kids in need.

- Apply Online: <https://shorturl.at/GhA6s>

Leveling the Playing Field: Redistributes new and gently used sports equipment to expand access within youth sports and recreation programs.

- Apply online:
<https://www.levelingtheplayingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

As a non-profit operating within the 8 counties of WNY, you qualify for free resources from the American Heart Association:

<https://cpr.heart.org/en/training-programs/cardiac-emergency-response-plan-cerp>

Q&A



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