

SHARKS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ASSIST GRANT CYCLE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please ensure you review all eligibility requirements and funding priorities on www.sjsharks.com/grants.

- **Q: When does the Community Assist Grant Cycle open?**
 - **A:** May of each year – traditionally the Sharks Foundation provides nonprofit organizations with approximately one month to complete and submit their application.
- **Q: How many grants will the Sharks Foundation provide each season?**
 - **A:** One grant per focal area (six grants total) in the amount of \$10,000-\$40,000 each.
- **Q: How many applications can one nonprofit submit per cycle?**
 - **A:** One.
 - Organizations will be able to select up to two focal areas (max) on the grant application.
- **Q: Are previous grantees eligible to reapply?**
 - **A:** Yes.
- **Q: Our organization works with a fiscal sponsor so we can receive donations. May we apply if we are operating with a fiscal sponsor?**
 - **A:** If the fiscal sponsor and the program they support meet all of the Sharks Foundation's eligibility criteria, the 501(c)(3) **fiscal sponsor** may serve as the legal applicant for the Community Assist Grant and must be the organization that submits the application. The fiscal sponsor organization must have been in existence as a public 501(c)(3) for at least 5 years, and the program requesting funding must have been in existence for at least 3 years, to qualify for a Community Assist Grant.
- **Q: Who is considered youth?**
 - **A:** Ages 0-18 for wellness focused programs or TK-12 for education programs.
 - **A:** For the access to hockey pillar and/or January Hockey Equality grant focal area, there is no age limit for participants served.
- **Q: My nonprofit program primarily benefits youth, but a small number of participants are over 18 – can I still apply for funding for this program?**
 - **A:** If the grant funding will primarily serve youth the Sharks Foundation is amenable to a small portion supporting young adults (18-26 years old) and/or parents/guardians that are contributing to the success of the child/program. On the grant application organizations will be asked to outline the lives impacted by the funding request, including the age range of participants served and broken down between ages 0-18 and 19+.
- **Q: Does the Sharks Foundation place value in supporting underserved youth?**
 - **A:** Yes, the Sharks Foundation is deeply committed to supporting underserved youth through programs focused on education, wellness, and access to hockey.
- **Q: What types of programs qualify under the February TK-12 Education focal area?**
 - **A:** Programs designed for TK-12th grade students in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, math) or literacy (reading, financial, etc.). There is no emphasis on in-school vs. after-school programs.
- **Q: What kind of activation are you looking to collaborate on to showcase our partnership and story tell around the grant award?**
 - **A:** An activation should be well thought out, creative, and multifaceted. It should be thoroughly outlined in your application narrative and included in both the timeline and budget you will upload as appendices documents. Examples (but not limited to): participation in the construction or maintenance of a project or on-site needs/repairs, volunteer opportunity with the organization's services/programs, a dynamic check presentation, kit packing, meal service, collection drive, etc.
 - If your organization needs inspiration, view the Foundation's partnership recap videos on social @sjsccommunity or visit www.sjsharks.com/video/topic/in-the-community.

- **Q: For the activation, how many volunteers are you looking to host?**
 - **A:** It is dependent on the activity. The Sharks Foundation has participated in activations ranging from 10-person opportunities to 200 volunteers for a large-scale bike build. An ideal range is 20-50 volunteers, particularly when Sharks Foundation corporate partners are involved.
- **Q: Does the activation need to take place during the month of the grant focal area my nonprofit is applying under?**
 - **A:** Yes. The program/project can happen on a different timeline, but the activation and storytelling surrounding the grant and our partnership should be within the focal month (or right before).
 - Example 1: In early September, a Tealtop Street Hockey Court was installed at Boys & Girls Club Smyth Clubhouse. The project was officially celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony in October to align with the Healthy Living grant focal area.
 - Example 2: During the month of April, volunteers from the Sharks Foundation packed Nature Packs for Walden West Foundation to align with the Environmental Education focal area, however the kits were not distributed until WWF hosted their summer programming in June.
- **Q: How would you recommend completing questions related to program participant demographics if our organization does not track that information?**
 - **A:** The Sharks Foundation requires grant recipients to measure direct impact. If your organization cannot provide demographic data related to the grant focus, you should not apply.
- **Q: My organization does not permit our logo to be shared without a logo agreement in place.**
 - **A:** Uploading a logo in PNG format is required as part of the online application. A pop-up message will appear when applicants hover over that field which outlines an agreement providing the Sharks Foundation permission to use your logo for marketing/creative purposes surrounding the grant and our partnership. The Sharks Foundation can review a nonprofit's own logo use agreement, if necessary.

Have a question that is not answered here or on sjsharks.com/grants? Email: sharksfoundation@sharksfoundation.org