



The Dick's Sporting Good Foundation/LISC  
*Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative*  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation/LISC Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative is a program designed to provide funding by The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation and technical assistance and program management, provided by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for the creation and renovation of multi-use youth sport spaces for youth ages 6-24 years old in underserved communities. The goal of the Program is to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local athletic spaces. Funds will be awarded to outdoor and indoor facilities that enable and demonstrate local community access and usage for all organized youth sports, including but not limited to basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, football, tennis, lacrosse, and volleyball.

Funding will be awarded to non-profit community-based organizations, including schools and local parks and recreation departments (working in collaboration with local non-profit community-based organizations.) To be eligible for a grant under the Program, projects must be sponsored by non-profit community-based organizations registered as exempt from Federal Income Tax under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3) or elementary, middle, or high schools.

The program will provide grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to be used toward the cost of building or refurbishing a sport court facility or athletic field whose main usage will be for organized youth sports. **Special consideration will be given to proposals that demonstrate how their capital projects will support youth development programming. Youth development program services should include but are not limited to, life skills workshops, civic engagement and leadership, workforce development, academic support, etc.** Awards will be granted in neighborhoods throughout the country and chosen based on need and potential impact in the local community. Strong preference will be given to those proposals that: **(1) seek to upgrade existing facilities that are in poor condition or otherwise underutilized (2) demonstrate active use of the facilities (3) attract match funding that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1 (4) promote youth sports and community programming on the recreation spaces (5) provide for continuing maintenance and safety of the facilities. Grants are only given for capital expenditures; match from awardees can include in-kind donations, such as construction labor or donations of materials associated with the project.**

**Proposals are due by September 5, 2024 - No Exceptions**

**Please read the complete RFP before submitting a proposal**  
**EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: [SportsandRec@lisc.org](mailto:SportsandRec@lisc.org)**

**PLEASE SEND THE PROPOSAL AS A PDF ATTACHMENT AND INCLUDE ALL  
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AS PER THE RFP  
DO NOT SEND THE PROPOSAL IN THE BODY OF THE EMAIL  
Please title the attachment with the Organization and Project name.**

### **Organizational Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative, organizations applying for grant funds must meet **all** the criteria listed below:

- Be a community-based organization, elementary, middle, or high school serving a neighborhood consisting primarily of low and moderate-income families and individuals.  
**Please note:**
  - **Schools must demonstrate the ability of the community to also utilize the facility.**
  - **Universities and college campuses are not eligible to apply and will not be considered for funding.**
- Have at least one-full time staff person (all-volunteer organizations will not be considered)
- Be in existence for at least three years.
- Have a proven history in real estate development and/or parks programming.
- Have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status/school status.

### **Selection Criteria**

Organizations and their projects will be selected for funding based upon the following criteria:

- 1. Feasibility of the proposed project.** The project budget must be based upon realistic costs, preferably written contractor's estimates.
- 2. Project readiness.** Sources of funding for the entire budget should be identified. Plans for the renovations should consider the schedule of recreation activities over the course of the year. A project timeline should be specified in the proposal.
- 3. Impact upon neighborhood and support from the community.** Only proposals focused on locations in low and moderate-income communities will be considered. The proposal should clearly state how the improvements would benefit the community. It also must clearly detail how many youths have use of the sport space. Moreover, the proposal must also include a projected increase in the number of youths that will use the facility because of the Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative improvements. Support letters from other neighborhood and partner organizations and joint use agreements (where applicable) must be included as well as contact information for the youth organizations and programs scheduled to use the facilities.

**Match funding.** The Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative requires a minimum local match of one dollar for every dollar (1:1). For example, if the proposal requests \$100,000 from the Program, it must demonstrate sources and commitments for at least \$100,000 in local funds, however, should demonstrate total funding sources that cover the costs of the entire project. Match funding at a higher ratio will strengthen the proposal. *\*Note: All funding levels require minimally 1:1 match*

**5. Security of future field maintenance and safety.** Proposals must have written commitments of maintenance funding for a minimum of three years along with a detailed three-year maintenance plan to demonstrate that the applicant will maintain the facility despite projected wear and tear and potential overuse by youth sports participants. As a reminder, Game on Community Places to Play Initiative funds may not be used to maintain facility surfaces, as all grant funds must be used for capital improvement expenditures.

**6. Capacity of organization and its partners to carry out project.** The applicant organization must demonstrate, through its current management team and previous experience, the ability to manage a project of this size and nature.

### **Other Terms & Definitions**

Capital improvements refer to the physical development of the sports spaces and its surrounding amenities. Such projects may include but are not limited to new court or field surfaces, nets, hoops, lights, bleachers, public address systems, fences, locker room facilities, goalposts, and scoreboards.

Public agencies (other than public schools) may not apply for grants from the Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative. However, community-based non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) designation, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools meeting all other organizational criteria, and private schools with 501(c)(3) designation may apply to make improvements on fields owned and managed by public sector entities (e.g., City Parks, and Recreation Departments, etc.). In those cases, the applicant must show evidence that (1) the public entity supports the proposal; (2) the public entity authorizes the applicant to carry out the proposed capital improvements (this authorization must take into account relevant labor/union regulations and liability issues); (3) the public entity demonstrates its financial commitment to facility maintenance; and (4) the facility is open to and used by the community for organized athletics and other events through joint use agreements.

## **Application Procedures**

To apply for funding under the Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative, please email a scanned copy of the following:

**Cover Sheet:** A one-page cover sheet including the following information:

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- Name, address, e-mail address, telephone, and facsimile numbers of the organization.
- Executive director and contact person (if different) for this application.
- Brief description of proposed project
- Amount of funding requested.

***Please note that use of The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation or LISC logos are expressly prohibited.***

**Narrative:** In no more than five (5) typed pages, address the following:

- ***Description of the organization:*** mission, history, and accomplishments, with a focus on capacity to develop the proposed project.
- ***Description of the neighborhood:*** boundaries of the catchment area, income levels, population served, condition of housing stock and main commercial areas, existence and conditions of local parks and open spaces (including community facilities).
- ***Description of the project:*** location, current programming, plans for new programming and site use, progress on this plan (including status on site control, zoning, environmental review, and physical improvements if applicable), project budget and match funding, timeline for launch and/or completion of the project, community support for the project, and agreements with partner organizations. ***Impact of the project and future sustainability:*** planned or anticipated programming on the sport court space including youth and local school athletic programs, plans for continued maintenance and safety of the facility (including long-term maintenance budget and timeline), and how project fits into community plans for neighborhood.
- Please indicate how you learned about the Game On- Community Places to Play Initiative.

**Organizational Attachments:** Please attach the following items:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter
- Two most recent audited financial statements (preferably annual statements for 2021 and 2022)
- Most recent IRS 990 form (preferably 2022)
- Current List of organizations' Board of Directors (contact information)
- Current list of youth sports organizations/activities utilizing the fields
- IRS W-9 Form

**Project Attachments:** Please include a copy of the following items:

- Project budget for the renovations/construction of the sports space.
- Financing commitment letters from match funding sources.
- Financial commitment letters and detailed maintenance plan from organizations responsible for field maintenance.
- Landscaping or park design plans
- Environmental reports (if necessary)
- Agreements and budgets for court programming (i.e., youth basketball/soccer/tennis).
- Letters of support and joint use agreements from youth development program participants or court users and other community organizations
- Contact information for the youth organizations and local school sports programs scheduled to utilize the facility.

Proposals should be emailed to [SportsandRec@LISC.org](mailto:SportsandRec@LISC.org)

**Proposals are due by September 5, 2024. No exceptions.**

If you have questions regarding this RFP, please contact LISC Sports & Recreation by e-mail at [SportsandRec@lisc.org](mailto:SportsandRec@lisc.org)