



**With everything happening during the pandemic, communities across the country are coming up with unique ways to bring recreation, fitness, healthy living, and outdoor activities to residents.**

There's one challenge...funding from in-person classes, camps, leagues and facility use has come to a grinding halt leaving many agencies to search for ways to fund current and future programming. This presents an immediate challenge – being creative when it comes to funding methods that will help keep your department ahead-of-the-game and engaged with your residents. A grant from a foundation or corporation might be the solution. We've compiled a list of potential grants that might apply to your programming and community outreach. While this is by no means a complete list, we hope this offers you some unique ideas of where you might find critical program dollars, and perhaps help you to brainstorm some new ways to operate through the shutdown.

According to a recent study, there is an estimated \$360 billion **available** from funding sources for community play and recreation projects.

### **The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation Grant Program**

Municipal entities, local nonprofits, and public schools are eligible to apply to support the planting of fruitful trees and plants to alleviate hunger, combat global warming, strengthen communities, and improve the environment. Trees can be planted at community gardens, city parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, schools, and more. The Foundation provides trees and shrubs, equipment, on-site orchard design expertise and oversight, horticultural workshops, and aftercare training and manuals. Learn more at [www.ftpf.org/apply](http://www.ftpf.org/apply)

### **GameTime Funding Guide**

GameTime helps communities bring play to more children and families. They have compiled a list of local, regional, national and global funding sources to help you find the funds you need. With more than 30 pages of sources, including contact details, websites and grant and deadline information, GameTime's *Playground Funding Guide* is a valuable part of any fundraising toolkit. Get more information at [www.gametime.com/resources/playground-funding-guide](http://www.gametime.com/resources/playground-funding-guide)

### **PlayCore Funding Guide**

Find out more about the latest grant opportunities to help you in funding your playground project. PlayCore has curated a comprehensive funding guide that identifies grant opportunities that begin at the local community level, all the way to cities, states, and internationally. Learn more at [www.playandpark.com/funding](http://www.playandpark.com/funding).

### **CAN'd Aid Crush It Grants**

The CAN'd Aid Foundation accepts applications from communities, local organizations, and local government entities to help support recycling programs. The Foundation awards small grants to fund program expenses including signage and education, and also provides in-kind recycling tents, bins, and training on waste management. The typical award amount is \$5,000. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Learn more and apply at [www.candaid.org](http://www.candaid.org).

### **Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program – Rural Communities**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides grants, low-interest direct loans, and/or combinations of the two to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, including public facilities, community support services, and local food systems such as community gardens and food hubs. Public entities, nonprofit organizations, and tribal entities in rural communities are eligible to apply. Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more at [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services)

### **American Academy of Dermatology Association Shade Structure Grant Program**

The AAD Shade Structure Grant Program awards grants of up to \$8,000 to public schools and non-profit organizations for installing permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, or recreation spaces. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign for display near the shade structure. Learn more at [www.aad.org/member/career/volunteer/shade](http://www.aad.org/member/career/volunteer/shade).

### **State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Grants**

State Farm grants focus on three areas: safety, education, and community development. State Farm is committed to maintaining the vibrancy of communities by assisting programs conducted by municipal, county, state or federal government entities that align with the State Farm<sup>®</sup> charitable focuses - including neighborhood revitalization. Learn more at [www.statefarm.com/about-us/community-involvement](http://www.statefarm.com/about-us/community-involvement).

### **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program**

The National Park Service has announced the opening of the application process for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), a nationally competitive grant program funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The ORLP offers grants specifically to help create and improve state and local parks and other outdoor recreation areas particularly in under-served communities. A total of \$40 million of funding is available. Applications are due by July 10. Learn more and apply at [www.cityparksalliance.org/funding/grant-opportunities](http://www.cityparksalliance.org/funding/grant-opportunities)

## **USTA Facility Services Program**

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) offers business development, advocacy, technical, and financial support to improve or construct tennis facilities across the country. In addition, each applicant will be appointed a project consultant from the USTA National staff who will deliver personalized support and service. Service applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more at [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com), search for “grants” in the search box.

## **Convenience Comes to Federal Grants**

The Grants.gov program is an E-Government initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget. The office delivers a system that provides a centralized location for grant seekers to find and apply for federal funding opportunities. The Grants.gov system houses information on over 1,000 grant programs for federal grant-making agencies. You can now search and submit for grants on-the-go with the Grants.gov Mobile App. Learn more at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

## **Finding Independent Fundraising Resources**

*By National Recreation and Park Association*

When looking for funding and grants, there are many resources available on the Internet. Below are just a few suggestions on where to start your research.

- 1. Foundation Center:** Provides both training and research information on corporate and foundation grant programs. The grants database is a collection of thousands of grants.
- 2. Guidestar:** An excellent source of IRS 990 forms for foundations and other nonprofit organizations.
- 3. Chronicle of Philanthropy:** The Chronicle is a newspaper for nonprofit news publishing, fundraising trends, resources, and recent grants.
- 4. NRPA’s Crowdfunding Toolkit**
- 5. Nonprofit Times:** Nonprofit management newspaper.
- 6. Hoovers:** Profiles millions of U.S. companies. It is a great source for employee contact information.

**7. *Fortune* magazine:** A resource for identifying companies by state and industry.

**8. Leadership Directories**

**9. Google, Yahoo Finance, and other general search engines.**

**10. Newspapers and magazines** like the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *New York Times*.

Learn more about NRPA's grant and fundraising resources at [www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources](http://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources)