



NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

Grant Opportunity: Mentoring for Youth Impacted by Substance Misuse

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

What types of agencies/organizations are eligible to apply?

The funding opportunity is limited to agencies/organizations in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. If your program is not located in one of these states, it is not eligible for this opportunity. States were identified based on high rates of opioid misuse, substance use disorder and substance-related mortality.

All types of park and recreation agencies/departments in these states are welcome to apply, including municipal, county, regional, state and park districts, tribal recreation departments, etc. Local community-based organizations and non-profits that have a 501c(3) status and partner with their local park and recreation agency/department are also eligible.

We are a non-profit organization that partners with our local government. Can we apply?

The main applicant for the grant must be a local government agency that plans, builds and/or operates parks (e.g., municipal park and recreation department, tribal recreation department, park district), **OR** an affiliated 501c(3) non-profit organization.

If the applicant is **not** a local government agency, the applicant is required to submit a letter of support for the project being proposed from the park and recreation agency director or equivalent.

Can our parks foundation serve as the fiscal agent?

Yes, the funds can be issued to a non-profit local park foundation.

Do we have to be a current member of NRPA or another organization in order to apply?

NRPA encourages membership to ensure that your agency has access to the full suite of education and resources available; however, you do not have to be a current member of NRPA or any other organization to be eligible to apply.

Are municipalities/organizations outside of the U.S. eligible to receive grants?

Grants will only be awarded to projects located within the target U.S. states above.

What type of community are you looking for and who is most likely to receive funding?

NRPA seeks to support agencies that demonstrate a clear commitment to developing and implementing an evidence-based mentoring program to promote positive behavioral outcomes for youth and communities, and prevent, reduce, and address opioid use among youth 17 years and younger. Top candidates will have significant community involvement integrated into the planning, implementation, and stewardship of the project. Successful agencies will also demonstrate a clear commitment to prioritize justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. An exemplary applicant will leverage this project to address inequities in their community and ensure that Black, American Indian/Alaska Native; Hispanic/Latino; Asian American; LGBTQ+ youth; youth living in low-income communities; and youth disproportionately at risk for poor academic performance, juvenile delinquency, victimization, and/or juvenile justice system involvement benefit from parks and recreation.

We will be looking for a diverse set of communities and park and recreation agencies that will include a mix of:

- Agencies in the Appalachian and New England regions and agencies located in other target states surrounding these regions or with high rates of opioid overdose mortality including Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Utah
- Varying population size and demographics, including rural communities
- Agencies with existing youth development and out-of-school time programming (afterschool program, youth sports, arts/cultural activities, academic support, workforce development, outdoor recreation, etc.), and agencies looking to expand their offerings and integrate mentoring activities and concepts into these settings
- Agencies who demonstrate existing park and recreation and community assets to support youth programming
- Interest in and commitment to addressing trauma, substance use and mental health disorders
- Community engagement strategies and practices to ensure youth and community voice are centered in program design

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

What are requirements for this grant?

Through this grant and coaching opportunity, awarded agencies will be responsible for several deliverables that result in a successful youth mentoring program. To accomplish this, we expect that agencies will:

- Join and participate in a grantee kick-off meeting, grant administration training, and new grantee orientation in Spring 2023.
- Join and participate in ongoing coaching and technical assistance calls and meetings (combination of individual, small group, and large group with NRPA, national partners and other local park and recreation agencies).
- Complete all administrative requirements including submitting a signed grant agreement, W9, developing an updated program budget, workplan, mentoring program profile, etc. NRPA will provide support to complete these activities.

- Develop and implement a unique mentoring program beginning in the fall of 2023, utilizing NRPA's [Youth Mentoring Framework and other resources](#) and MENTOR's [Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring](#), focused on youth impacted by and/or are at risk for opioid use.
- Set a goal of reaching at least 100 youth and 20 adult mentors over the course of the grant. Mentoring can be delivered in group and/or one-on-one settings.
- Implement family engagement activities focused on supporting relationship building and providing education to parents/caregivers about bullying prevention.
- Develop mentoring program policies, practices, and plans. NRPA will provide resources, tools, sample policies, templates and support the development of program materials and policies.
- Participate in evaluation efforts that will include maintaining accurate program records, administering surveys, and participating in focus groups. NRPA will provide support in evaluation activities.
- Host NRPA for a site visit (in-person or virtual) over the course of the grant period.

What are eligible expenses for these grant funds?

Expenditures that support your mentoring program, such as staffing (wages and fringe), transportation, marketing materials and costs, technology (laptops, tablets, etc), outdoor recreational equipment, sports equipment, games, office supplies, professional development (e.g. conferences and certifications), educational materials, staff training fees, background check fees, and contractors are eligible expenses if selected for grant funding. NRPA has provided a [sample budget](#). We recommend that at least 50% of your project budget goes toward staffing of the program.

What are unallowable expenses for these grant funds?

The funding **cannot** be used to purchase food or pay for entertainment costs (tickets to shows/sporting events, meals, lodging, etc.).

Is a grant match required?

No, a match is not required and there are no local requirements for funding.

Who should the statements of support be addressed to?

The letters must be provided electronically (email, a scan, PDF, etc.) and uploaded with your online application. If unable to upload it with you application, please email a copy to mentoring@nrpa.org.

Who can I contact with additional questions about this grant opportunity?

If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity, please email mentoring@nrpa.org

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How much involvement is expected with community-based organizations?

NRPA recognizes the importance of ensuring that community members have a voice and decision-making power in the planning of new programs and initiatives. The community should play a significant leadership role in the planning, implementation, and stewardship of the mentoring program. To do this, we highly recommend engaging community-based organizations in this proposal and partnering with them throughout and beyond this project for sustainability. Specifically, organizations representing local communities, as well as specific demographics such as youth, Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+, New Americans (immigrants and refugees), low-income communities, substance use and mental health organizations, and individuals with disabilities.

Types of partners may include, but are not limited to, other government departments such as schools, substance use and mental health organizations, counseling and therapeutic services, social service organizations, affordable housing developments, transportation, faith-based communities, youth-serving organizations, and advocacy or environmental/health justice organizations.

If my agency is not chosen this application cycle, will there be other opportunities to apply?

This is the only grant opportunity at this time. However, as NRPA looks to continue to grow and expand work addressing mentoring, substance use and mental health disorders, future opportunities will be added to NRPA's [Grant Opportunities page](#) as they are available.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

To learn more and apply for this opportunity, visit the NRPA's Online Grant Opportunities Portal by clicking this link: [APPLY HERE](#)