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| **Kathy Hochul**  *Governor* | 52 Washington Street  rensselaer, NY 12144 | **Sheila J. Poole**  *Commissioner* |

**Local Commissioners Memorandum**

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| **Transmittal:** | 22-OCFS-LCM-09 |
| **To:** | Municipal Youth Bureau Directors |
| **Issuing Division/Office:** | Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success |
| **Date:** | May 3, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | **Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding** |
| **Contact Person(s):** | Matt Beck, Director of the Bureau of Youth Development [ocfs.sm.YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ocfs.sm.YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov) |
| **Attachments:** | **SFY 2021-22 Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocations** |

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this Local Commissioner Memorandum (LCM) is to advise municipal youth bureaus on the availability of Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (“Sports Opportunity Funding”).

This LCM provides notification of the 2022 calendar year allocation for Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding.

1. **Background**

Part Y of Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2021 legalized mobile sports wagering in New York State. Subdivision 8 of section 1367 of the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law established that 1% of state tax proceeds from mobile sports wagering were to be used to support grants for sports activities and education for youth. A grantmaking fund was created under OCFS in the SFY 2021-2022 budget for the purpose of providing annual awards to support sports programs for underserved children and youth under the age of 18. The focus of these grants will be to support youth development via local nonprofit organizations.

The allocation for this grant program provides $1 million from the state tax imposed on mobile sports wagering in the first fiscal year in which mobile sports wagering licensees commenced operations and accepted mobile sports wagers (2021-2022). This is a brief background or history of the topic.

1. **Program Implications**

Each municipal youth bureau will receive an allocation for the Sports Opportunity Funding to serve children and youth ages 6-17 based on the population of eligible youth in the county. No county will receive less than $5,000. These new funds will be approved by OCFS and claimed in the same manner as the current Youth Development Program Funding. Sports Opportunity Funding awards are guided by the following principles:

* Sports are effective tools in positive youth development and family engagement, when delivered well by programs and minimum quality measures are met.
* Sports improve the lives of young people by promoting positive social, emotional, health, and educational outcomes and have important life-long impacts.
* Sports enable opportunities for young people to succeed economically through leadership roles.
* Coaching education greatly improves the sports experience and development outcomes of young people.

Funded programs must provide a variety of sports for a broad range of youth in under-resourced communities. OCFS encourages a wide and flexible definition of sports that includes organized activities with movement, physical fitness, and engagement outdoors, such as yoga, hiking, dance, etc.

To ensure that funding is going to the intended population, municipal youth bureaus must identify indicators used during planning, including but not limited to indicators[[1]](#footnote-1) such as:

* Historically under-resourced communities
* Public housing
* High rates of family homelessness
* Opportunity Zones or neighborhoods/cities/areas deemed “low-income” via externally available tools like the Census Bureau, USDA income eligibility, etc.
* Marginalized communities or groups with higher barriers to participation in sports (e.g., youth with disabilities, girls, transgender/gender non-binary youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning identified youth)
* Federally and/or New York State recognized tribes and tribal organizations
* Neighborhoods that experience higher rates of crime and violence and poorer performing schools.

Municipal youth bureaus should give priority consideration to programs that serve youth identifying as Black, Indigenous, people of color and/or providers of adaptive sports for youth with physical disabilities that aim to foster the following development outcomes:

* Educational connection and achievement – More youth attending and completing school with increased attainment, including programs that have collegiate placement success
* Physical health and well-being – Increasing physical activity and positive relationships to one’s body and physical activity
* Mental health and well-being – Improving outcomes related to youth mental health and social and emotional skills development and connectedness
* Employment – Increasing qualiﬁcations and skills, such as collective problem solving, teamwork, and dispute resolution, that help prepare youth for suitable employment
* Community cohesion – Breaking down barriers to reduce discrimination, crime, and violence in communities and help young leaders emerge

**Eligibility and Funding**

Municipal youth bureaus will contract with local organizations for up to $50,000 per program. Organizations that serve multiple areas through different programs may be funded above $50,000. Funding may provide general operating dollars to give programs flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming. Line-item budgets should focus on programming costs, including but not limited to:

* Coaches/instructors/direct service staff/mentors (including training/professional development)
* Equipment
* Educational programming costs
* Facility/field and/or space cost
* Maximum of 15% of funds for administrative/overhead costs

Programs eligible for funding must meet the criteria below:

* Provide structured sports activities for youth ages 6-17.
* Serve youth in New York State.
* Be certified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
* Be in good standing with the New York State Charities Bureau.
* Demonstrate basic competency in the areas of governance, monitoring and evaluation, partnership, and ﬁnancial stewardship.
* Have a child protection policy in place that includes adherence to local city, agency, school district, and state child protection guidelines.
* Collect registration data, including participant demographic information as required by OCFS in such a fashion as to be able to accurately report anonymized aggregate data.

Organizations and activities not eligible for funding:

* For-profit organizations or businesses.
* Private foundations, as defined in section 509(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
* Organizations that discriminate based on age, ethnicity/race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or other disability, national origin, or any protected characteristic under local, state, and/or federal law.
* Research or project planning activities.
* Support for elite or private sports camps, programs, or teams.
* Endowments, memorials, budget deficits, or fundraising activities.
* Religious organizations whose sports programs do not have a secular and community focus.
* Lobbying, political, or fraternal activities.
* Capital projects, except eligible facility upgrades.

**Touchstone Life Areas and Services, Opportunities, and Supports (SOS) in Quality Youth Development System (QYDS)**

Municipal youth bureaus will be required to report demographics and outcomes through QYDS. The Life Area and SOS selections that will be required in QYDS for the Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding are as follows:

* Life Area: 2PEH Physical and Emotional Health
* SOS: 0232 Year-Round/Seasonal Activities
* Performance Measures:
  + How Much: **0232A.1** # of youth participating (unduplicated)
  + How Well: **0232B.4** % of youth completing the program
  + Better Off: **0232C.1** #/% reporting they have improved their ability to socialize/interact with peers/family/other members of the community

1. **Effective Date**

This directive is effective as of January 1, 2022, and the first year of funding will be for programs operating from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Claims for this period are due by June 30, 2023.

1. **Contact**

For further questions or technical assistance, please use the subject line “Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding” and email [ocfs.sm.YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:ocfs.sm.YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov).

***/s/ Nina Aledort, Ph.D., LMSW***

**Issued by:**

Name: Nina Aledort, Ph.D., LMSW

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Youth Development and Partnerships for Success

**Attachment 1: SFY 2021-22 Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding Allocations**

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| **Youth Bureau** | **21-22 Allocations** |  | **Youth Bureau** | **21-22 Allocations** |
| Albany County | $17,254 |  | Onondaga County | $22,703 |
| Allegany County | $6,960 |  | Ontario County | $8,876 |
| Broome County | $12,848 |  | Orange County | $22,082 |
| Cattaraugus County | $7,915 |  | Orleans County | $6,349 |
| Cayuga County | $7,573 |  | Oswego County | $9,458 |
| Chautauqua County | $9,634 |  | Otsego County | $7,342 |
| Chemung County | $7,981 |  | Putnam County | $8,366 |
| Chenango County | $6,605 |  | Rensselaer County | $10,672 |
| Clinton County | $8,007 |  | Rockland County | $20,325 |
| Columbia County | $6,704 |  | Saratoga County | $12,809 |
| Cortland County | $7,159 |  | Schenectady County | $10,843 |
| Delaware County | $6,382 |  | Schoharie County | $6,063 |
| Dutchess County | $15,542 |  | Schuyler County | $5,554 |
| Erie County | $38,141 |  | Seneca County | $6,194 |
| Essex County | $6,021 |  | St. Lawrence County | $9,424 |
| Franklin County | $6,774 |  | Steuben County | $8,372 |
| Fulton County | $6,785 |  | Suffolk County | $59,212 |
| Genesee County | $6,989 |  | Sullivan County | $7,745 |
| Greene County | $6,451 |  | Tioga County | $6,653 |
| Hamilton County | $5,099 |  | Tompkins County | $10,079 |
| Herkimer County | $7,152 |  | Ulster County | $10,770 |
| Jefferson County | $9,812 |  | Warren County | $6,974 |
| Lewis County | $5,977 |  | Washington County | $6,951 |
| Livingston County | $7,510 |  | Wayne County | $8,127 |
| Madison County | $7,750 |  | Westchester County | $41,214 |
| Monroe County | $32,725 |  | Wyoming County | $6,253 |
| Montgomery County | $6,865 |  | Yates County | $6,023 |
| Nassau County | $55,118 |  | ROS Total | $700,953 |
| Niagara County | $12,186 |  | New York City | $299,047 |
| Oneida County | $13,602 |  | Total | $1,000,000 |

1. Data sources include the New York State Kids’ Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, <https://www.ccf.ny.gov/council-initiatives/kids-well-being-indicators-clearinghouse-kwic/>; public data from the New York State Education Department, <https://data.nysed.gov/>; and youth arrests data from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice System, <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/juvenilearrests/index.htm>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)