

YOUTH SPORTS GRANT PROGRAM

Accepting Applications from January 12 to February 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

The Youth Sports Grant Program serves Flathead Valley youth sports organizations that do not participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge.

The Youth Sports Grant Program has one application cycle annually.

The maximum request is \$5,000.00.

The following organizations should apply to the Youth Sports Grant Program, **NOT** the Community Grant Program:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities raising funds to support school-sanctioned, but not funded high school sports programs (self-supporting high school sports programs).
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities running Flathead Valley youth sports programs

If your youth sports organization meets either of these criteria and you did not participate in the 2025 Great Fish Community Challenge, please submit an application to the Youth Sports Grant Program.

Please note:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charities raising funds to support school-sanctioned AND funded youth sports programs are not eligible to apply. Please contact grants@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org if your organization falls into this category.
- Great Fish Community Challenge participating organizations are not eligible to apply

Still unsure? Give us a call at 406.863.1781 or email grants@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

Eligibility Requirements:

- Eligible applicants must serve residents of Flathead County, Montana.
- The applicant must be an I.R.S designated §501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity described in either I.R.C. §509(a)(1) or (a)(2). Supporting organizations described in I.R.C. §509(a)(3) should contact WCF to discuss eligibility.
- The applicant must have an IRS determination letter (recognition of nonprofit status), which can be verified in the applicant's GuideStar profile. Eligible supporting organizations and applicants that rely on a group exemption letter should contact Whitefish Community Foundation to discuss verification of nonprofit status.
- Applicants must have submitted all required documentation for previous grant awards by the specified deadline.
- Grades K-12 public schools are not eligible to apply.
- Organizations operating under a fiscal sponsorship are not eligible to apply.
- Youth sports organizations that participate in the Great Fish Community Challenge are not eligible to apply.

Applying organizations must be one of the following:

- a. An organization that predominantly works in or serves Flathead County, MT, with Flathead County representation on the board of directors, or
- b. An official Flathead County, MT chapter in good standing of a state/regional/national organization, with a board or local advisory board comprised predominantly of Flathead County, MT residents, or
- c. A regional/national organization, with a board or local advisory board comprised predominantly of Flathead County, MT residents, or
- d. A Montana organization with Flathead County, MT representation on the board of directors, and at least one paid employee whose responsibilities are to provide a program or complete a project that will have significant impact for Flathead County residents

Whitefish Community Foundation will not consider requests to fund:

- Individuals
- Deficits or retirement of debt
- Programs or projects promoting a religious doctrine
- Political campaigns or projects/programs promoting a political agenda
- Conduit organizations and/or fiscal sponsors, i.e. organizations or events that pass funds to other organizations
- Seed money for projects or programs not yet started by newly established organizations, or for projects or programs that are completed prior to the grant award date
- Fundraising event sponsorships

Documents uploaded into the application:

1. Detailed Project/Program Budget for the project or program to be supported by this grant
*The budget will include all budgeted income sources and expenses
2. Budget versus Actual Profit and Loss Statement for the most recently completed fiscal year
*Profit & Loss Statements that do not include a budget column will not be accepted
3. Two-Year Comparative Balance Sheet for the organization's two most recently completed fiscal years
4. IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter (all pages)

Please submit your application **EARLY!**

We will review your application and you will be able to edit information or make corrections to financial reports before the deadline. We will provide as much assistance as possible, but for the application to be reviewed by the Grants Committee, it must be complete and financial reports must be accurate and in the correct format by February 19 at 5 p.m.

Applicants will be notified the week of April 13, 2026.

Successful applicants are required to be present at the Community Grants Award Ceremony at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish, on the evening of Tuesday, April 28, 2026 to receive their grant.