



Youth & Amateur Sports FAQs

How does the Authority fund youth and amateur sports?

The law governing the Tourism and Sports Authority requires that the revenues received from tourism taxes be used to fund five separate accounts, each one to be fully funded in succession before the next. The funding "waterfall" directs revenues in this order:

1. **Multipurpose Facility** - to pay the annual principal and interest owed on a portion of the bonds issued by the Authority for design and construction of the University of Phoenix Stadium.
2. **Promotion of Tourism in Maricopa County** - to the Arizona Office of Tourism to promote tourism within Maricopa County. The amount distributed will be \$4 million in the first twelve months the taxes are in effect and increase by 5% each year thereafter until the taxes expire.
3. **Cactus League Baseball Spring Training** - to promote Arizona's Cactus League by constructing new Cactus League baseball spring training facilities in Maricopa County and by renovating existing Cactus League facilities. The amount distributed gradually increases from \$3 million each year in the first seven years to \$11 million each year in the last four years the taxes are collected.
4. **Youth & Amateur Sports and Recreation Facilities** - to promote youth and amateur recreation and sports within Maricopa County by developing and improving youth and amateur sports facilities, recreational facilities, and other community facilities. The amount distributed is \$1 million in the first year the taxes are in effect and increases by \$100,000 in each subsequent year until the taxes expire.
5. **Authority Operating Budget**. The revenues to pay for the actual operation of the Authority are at the bottom of the waterfall.

How much goes to the Youth & Amateur Sports account?

The Youth & Amateur Sports annual funding distribution grows incrementally by \$100,000 each year over the 30 years the taxes are collected. In total, \$73.5 million will be made available for funding youth and amateur and recreation facilities over the life of the taxes. In addition, the authority has funded, as required, a reserve account which is equal to the prior twelve months' statutory distribution amount.

Who may apply?

Applicants must be a Maricopa County agency, municipality, school district or any other incorporated public entity, (including any combination of the forgoing) or a 501(c) (3) or (c) (4) non-profit organization, which has been in operation for no less than one calendar year. Proposed projects must be within Maricopa County.

How much in funding can applicants request?

Under AZSTA's enabling legislation, AZSTA can fund no more than two-thirds of a project's total cost. If your requested amount is less than or equal to \$2,500, you may apply under AZSTA's Quick Grant Program.

When can a project start to be eligible for funding?

If an applicant is awarded a grant from AZSTA, their project can not have started before a grant award is given and a Project Funding Agreement has been completed.

What types of funding are not awarded?

Grants will not be awarded for requests for: fixed overhead/administrative expenses (e.g. salaries, rent, utilities, etc.), loans or endowments, conferences, individuals, golf tournaments or benefit tables, travel expenses outside of Maricopa County, capital campaigns, funding to maintain the sustainability of an organization or program, or anything else deemed as not serving the youth and amateur sports community within Maricopa County. Funding for such programs will not be considered nor awarded.

How are grant applications evaluated?

Applications are initially evaluated by AZSTA staff. Once evaluations are complete, recommendations are first presented to AZSTA's YAS Committee and then presented to the AZSTA Board of Directors for final consideration and approval.

AZSTA will consider all requests that are proposed, consistent with the requirements established by law and the established guidelines and criteria of the Biennial Grant Program. The Board will make its decision to award grants based upon the YAS Committee's recommendations and other relevant factors pertaining to the interest of the public.

How much of any project can the Authority fund?

The statute requires that the Authority fund no more than two-thirds of any one project. To reconcile the Authority's limited resources with the large demand for projects, creative partnering and fundraising are needed to provide the most impact on the youth and amateur sports scene.

How do I submit a grant application?

You can find the link to grant applications in the right-hand column of any page on the AZSTA Web site at www.az-sta.com.