



AZSTA Awards \$2.25 Million to Youth & Amateur Sports

Glendale, Ariz. (Oct. 23, 2007) – The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) Board met Tuesday, October 23, to award \$2.25 million in youth and amateur sports (YAS) project grants throughout Maricopa County.

AZSTA awards YAS grants on a biennial basis. These grants provide funding for a variety of sporting, recreational and physical activity needs. The Board awarded a total of \$2.25 million to 17 qualified recipients from a total of 25 applicants. Among the projects awarded were multi-purpose fields, lighting systems, gymnasiums, aquatics, motorsports, play areas, and physical fitness centers for the physically challenged.

YAS Committee Chairman, Jerry Walker, commented that AZSTA's third biennial grant program yielded the highest percentage of applicants receiving funding, 68%, as well as the highest percentage of funding requests being met – 85%. "In addition, four new municipalities and five new project types were selected for funding", Walker said. Since the inaugural year of the YAS biennial grant program in 2001, 47 projects have been funded for a total of more than eleven million dollars.

AZSTA Chairman Debbie Johnson noted that, "Of the total 47 projects, 27 are in areas with below average income levels." Another analysis shows that 25 projects, or 52% of YAS projects, are located in areas with above-average minority populations. These 25 projects total \$7.1 million in YAS funding, 66% of total YAS grants funded to date, as contrasted to their share of county population at 25%.

Formed as a result of voter approval of Prop. 302 in Nov. 2000, AZSTA is dedicated to enhancing Maricopa County's economy and the community's quality

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of life through the development of professional and amateur sports facilities, the attraction of entertainment, sporting, and business events, and through tourism promotion. The Authority is the owner-operator of University of Phoenix Stadium, home to the Arizona Cardinals, the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl and the 2008 Super Bowl XLII. The Authority also provides funding for Cactus League Spring Training projects and has funded \$159 million worth of facilities in Surprise, Phoenix, Tempe, Scottsdale, Goodyear and Glendale. These projects will increase the total number of major league baseball teams that train in Maricopa County from seven to 12 by 2009.

The next youth and amateur biennial grant cycle is set for the spring of 2009. For more information on AZSTA and its biennial grant program, visit AZSTA's website at www.az-sta.com.

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