

News

For Immediate Release



AZSTA to Award \$2.25 Million to Youth & Amateur Sports

GLENDALE, Ariz. (Apr. 16, 2007) -- The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) will be awarding \$2.25 million in grants this year for youth and amateur sports projects throughout Maricopa County.

Qualified parties can apply for the grants up to the deadline of June 1.

"We will be reviewing and evaluating the applications throughout the summer with our goal of making the awards this fall," said Chuck Foley, AZSTA chief financial officer.

Foley said applications and frequently asked questions are available directly from the Authority's Web site at www.az-sta.com/yas_grantcycle.htm.

Projects for consideration must be in Maricopa County and applicants need to be any Maricopa County entity, school district, municipality, incorporated public entity or non-profit that has been in existence for at least one year.

While the Authority is statutorily permitted to fund a maximum of two thirds of any one project, Foley said the Authority looks to leverage its funds as much as possible by encouraging groups to join with other community partners. Grant applicants must provide funding for at least one third of the project or \$.50 for every \$1 requested.

“We have limited resources for potentially unlimited needs,” he said. “We try to provide funds to as many projects as possible, according to need, over as wide a geographic area as we can.”

The Authority has already provided \$8.2 million in funding for Youth & Amateur Sports projects in Maricopa County. It provides the funds through two main programs -- the Biennial Grant Program and the Quick Grant Program. The Biennial Grant Program runs on a two-year cycle and funds the development and improvement of youth and amateur sports facilities, recreational facilities and other community facilities. The Quick Grant Program accepts funding requests on a year-round basis. The Authority awards a maximum of \$2,500 on a first-come, first-served basis providing that the program’s criteria are met. Grants are based on a completed Quick Grant Program Funding Application and project budget template and the stated need to serve youth and amateur sports, demonstration of financial need and the benefit to a local community.

AZSTA receives revenue through the collection of a one percent hotel bed tax and a 3.25 percent rental car surcharge, making it the first public entity using county-wide tax revenues to fund youth and amateur sports projects. The Authority also owns and operates the University of Phoenix Stadium, provides funding for tourism promotion, and provides funding for the building and improvement of Cactus League stadiums. For more information on AZSTA, go to www.az-sta.com.

#

Media contact:

Brad Parker

AZSTA

Phone: 623-433-7509

Email: bparker@az-sta.com