Summer Youth Program Fund Grant Cycle
Grant Guidelines & Application Questions

Open Date: 9:00am, November 30, 2026
Close Date: 4:00pm, January 8, 2027

Timeline for 2027 Grant Making

- Grant cycle opens: **November 30, 2026** at 9:00am.
- **Deadline:** Applications are due **January 8, 2027** at 4:00pm; no exceptions.
- Grant review panel will make final recommendations by **March 5, 2027**.
- Grant awards and decline notifications sent out by end of **March 2027**. Grant checks will be disbursed **Mid-May 2027**.
- If funded, Final Report Due by **September 30, 2027**.

Funding Request Range

The SYPF will award approximately $500,000 in grants ranging from $5,000 to $25,000. The maximum grant is $25,000. The average grant award may vary based on the number of applications received and competitive nature of the cycle.

** Applicants should not request more than 50% of their total program budget from the SYPF.*

Specific funding priorities:

- Serve disadvantaged youth from neighborhoods with limited access to organized activities.
- Serve youth with disabilities or special health needs.
- Exhibit stable history of community support, outreach and partnerships.
- Demonstrate ability to increase number of youth served.
- Provide age-appropriate, enriching activities and education components.
- Identify areas to improve program quality and increase positive impact to participants.
- Establish realistic outcomes for the program participants.
- Collaborate among fellow grant seekers.

Program activities can be varied, centering on personal youth development, arts and culture, recreation and physical activity, environment/nature, disability or academic/educational.

The SYPF encourages collaborative efforts among organizations with similar goals, increase service capacities and expand outreach to touch the lives of more youth of Maricopa County.

If your organization charges a program fee and is awarded, the award may only be used towards scholarship support.

Eligibility Quiz/Criteria

You will be required to disclose if your organization meets the criteria listed below before you get access to the application.

- My organization has carefully read the information provided about the SYPF.
- If my organization receives a grant, it agrees to use the funds as granted and will submit a final report on or before September 30, 2027.
- Our board of directors has approved the submission of this proposal.
- My organization will allow funders to use information provided in this request for public information pieces and will mention each funder's support in any publicity generated regarding the program.
- My organization understands that organization(s) seeking funds must reside in Arizona and have documentation from the Internal Revenue Service of charitable status (e.g., IRS Code Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A).
- My organization understands that schools and municipalities do not qualify to apply for funding from SYPF.
- My organization understands that organization(s) may not submit proposals under the 501(c)(3) umbrella of another agency.
- My organization confirms the program it requests funds for has a minimum history of two years.
- My organization confirms the program it is requesting funds for has daily programs that are conducted at least four hours per day and residential programs are conducted for more than one night.
- My organization confirms the proposed summer program will serve a minimum of 80% youth who are Maricopa County residents and acknowledge the services themselves may be provided outside of Maricopa County.
- My organization confirms the organization(s) it is collaborating on this proposed program also meet all eligibility criteria, while my organization will be the responsible applicant.
- My organization understands that it cannot request more than 50% of the total program budget. Requesting more than 50% will result in an immediate decline of the submitted application.
- My organization confirms it does not unlawfully discriminate against employees, volunteers, board members or the members, clients, or students it serves on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation or any other characteristic protected by law.
- My organization understands that it must be in good standing with the IRS at the time of review or the application will be immediately declined.

For more information or to apply, go to the Arizona Community Foundation's grants page at https://www.azfoundation.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/.

Background

The Summer Youth Program Fund (SYPF) is an independent grantmaking program founded and managed by local funders who support, or are interested in supporting, agencies that provide summer programming for Maricopa County youth. The purpose of the SYPF is to supplement existing programs in order to enrich, enhance and expand summer offerings for children and youth.

The SYPF recognizes that summer programs, particularly those serving economically disadvantaged youth, require financial assistance to provide creative and recreational outlets while fostering personal development and life-long learning.

During out of school time, young people tend to engage in the highest levels of health-harming behaviors.

Targeted programs provide a continuum of care during the summer months and offer opportunities for youth to develop and sustain enriching and healthy lifestyle activities that will divert them from negative behaviors.

Grants will be made to organizations that match the criteria of individual funders participating in the collaboration. Collaborators include the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF), Arizona Republic Season for Sharing, Helios Education Foundation, Hickey Family Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Thunderbirds Charities, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Burton Family Foundation.

Review and Evaluation Process

All proposals will be reviewed through a competitive evaluation process. Please feel free to use the rubric on the next page as a reference when preparing your application.

First Screening of Applications

- Questions may be posed to applicants for clarification on IRS status, documentation, or eligibility.

Second Screening of Applications

- Proposals are reviewed and evaluated by the grant review panel, comprised of SYPF funders. The grant review panel will assess proposal strengths and weaknesses according to evaluation criteria.

Grant Reviewer Rubric

Scoring Rubric						
Criteria	**Measure**	**Weak**		**Average**		**Strong**
Goals	The program's goals and activities clearly fit the Summer Youth Criteria	1	3	5	7	10
Impact	**Community Need**: The majority of the youth served by the program represent marginalized groups. (Ex. youth with physical or mental disability, low socioeconomic status)	1	3	5	7	10
	Program Outcomes: The expected outcomes, or results, of the program are clearly stated and correlated with the program's goals.	1	3	5	7	10
	Program Plan and Evaluation: The organization has provided a realistic and comprehensive program plan. The organization has a plan for implementing the program and achieving outcomes stated in the application. The organization has set forth goals for the program which can be evaluated or measured for success.	1	3	5	7	10
Planning/Design	**Program Resources**: The organization has allocated sufficient resources (personnel, partners, time, existing materials, facilities) to ensure that the program is completed successfully.	1	3	5	7	10
	Program Budget: The organization has provided a comprehensive list of program expenses that articulates the need of the program. The organization has identified their greatest needs for funding and provided narrative detail on additional funding and support.	1	3	5	7	10
	Partnerships, Collaborations & Coordination: The organization is working in coordination and/or collaborating on the program with specific organizations in the same or related fields.	1	3	5	7	10
					Total Points Possible:	**70**

How to Apply Online

If your organization has an ACF profile:
Go to the Arizona Community Foundation's grants page at https://www.azfoundation.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/ Click grantee login at the top right corner of the main page to sign in and begin an application. If you need to reset your password please use the "forgot password" link.

If your organization does not have a registered ACF profile:
If your organization needs to be registered, please go to https://www.azfoundation.org/nonprofits/grant-opportunities/ Click grantee login at the top right corner of the main page. Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

How to Get Help

Due to the high volume of calls and inquires as the deadline nears, organizations are encouraged to contact staff well in advance of the deadline with any questions! During the last week of any grant cycle's duration, you will have limited access to ACF technical support.

For technical assistance with the website, including organizational profile and the online application, please contact a member of the ACF Grants Management Team at 602.381.1400 or grants@azfoundation.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: **Will the SYPF program potentially lead to decreased funding from participating funders?**
A: No. Organizations should consult the guidelines of other funders. The SYPF presents an opportunity to streamline the overall process of seeking funds for summer youth programs.

Q**: What if a participating funder has a "one-time grant per year" policy?**
A: The application process allows an opportunity to decline review of the grant by both funder and applicant.

Q**: Is there an accreditation requirement for organizations running residential camps?**
A: Recognizing various "types" of camps (i.e., overnight, day camps) hold different requirements to operate, the SYPF will require such items where applicable.

Q: **Define "youth."**
A: School aged, kindergarten through grade 12.

Q: **When must programs be conducted, i.e., define "summer"?**
A: When school is not in session between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Q: **Is an organization with multiple branches only allowed one application per site, i.e., a Boys & Girls Club?**
A: A 501(c)(3) organization with multiple branches is allowed one application for each eligible program site.

Q: **May I apply for and use SYPF funds for any type of cost associated with my summer program?**
A: No, the intent of the SYPF is to fund programs rather than capital costs such as equipment, vehicles, facility enhancements, building repair and maintenance.

Q: **May I apply for and use SYPF funds to cover the cost of transportation?**
A: Yes, SYPF will fund costs associated with transportation for program participants to and from program sites.

Q: **May I apply for and use SYPF funds for youth employment programs?**
A: No. While this need is recognized, SYPF is focused on 'traditional' programs incorporating the specific priorities outlined above and is not funding youth employment at this time.

Q: **How much of my summer program budget can I request funding for?**
A: An organization may request up to 50% of the total program budget. Applications requesting more than 50% of the total program budget will be declined funding.

Q: **Can schools or municipalities apply to the SYPF funding cycle?**
A: No, neither schools nor municipalities can apply to the SYPF funding cycle.

Grant Application Questions

Application Summary

Please refer to the Grant Reviewer Rubric as a reference when preparing your application.

Be sure to note that character limits include spaces within the grant guidelines.

Program Name (Character limit 100)

Total Program $ Amount. This amount should be reflected in the embedded budget table below. (Character limit 20)

$ Amount Requested. Explain this amount in the Budget Narrative. (Character limit 20)

Please select the area(s) that best describes this application's primary focus:

- Education
- Health/Nutrition
- Arts & Culture
- Environment & Nature
- Personal Development
- Physical Activity

Organization Summary

Organization Description: In brief, describe your organization's purpose or mission, history, and programs or services. (Character limit 1500)

Total $ amount of overall organizational expenses for most recently completed fiscal year:
(Character limit 20)

Program Information

Program Description: What will you do and why? When and where will you do it and will transportation be provided? Who will benefit or receive service from your program? *Include any relevant statistics and resources.* (Character limit 3000)

Program Components: Please describe the program components and daily activities. Include: Program Activity, Percentage of Time and Specific Activities and how often they will occur. Example: Remedial Education, 10% of time, Remedial math and writing classes three times per week for two hours/day. (Character Limit - 1800)

Outcome Description: How will you measure and evaluate your progress in ways that are relevant and meaningful to your program? Be as specific as possible about intended outcomes, outputs, and measures, as relevant to your program*. If your program is awarded a grant, you will be asked to complete a final report, wherein you will reflect upon the outcomes you articulated at the time of application.* (Character limit 3000)

Partnerships: Is the community/population who will benefit or receive service from your program involved in the program's development and implementation, and/or is the program being developed or implemented with other organizations? Please identify community partners and their roles in the program. (Character limit 1500)

Program Need: Describe how your program addresses the needs of the community. (Character limit 750)

Program Operation: Does your program operate beyond the period covered by the Summer Youth Program Fund? (SYPF). If yes, please answer the following:

- Please describe how your summer programming differs from your year-round program (e.g., goals, activities, participants, staffing, or schedule).

Program Dates: What is the program start and end date?

Program Hours: What are the number of days and hours the program will operate per week?

Program Sessions: What are the number of sessions/program cycles per summer?

Program Fees: Does your organization charge a fee to attend the program? If yes, please answer the following:

a. What is the program fee per child? Be sure to include whether the fee is per day, per week, per month or for the entire summer.
b. How does your program accommodate those who cannot afford your weekly fees, field trip expenses or other costs? Based on your previous summer program, how many youth received reduced fee or full scholarship support?

Numbers Served: Please provide the following.

- Average number of youth expected daily.
- Total number of unduplicated youth the program will serve the entire summer (count each child once regardless of number of days attended).
- Percentage of summer youth who receive free or reduced lunch (as defined by the National School Lunch Program).
- Program percent of youth from Maricopa County.

Previous Year Program History:

- What was the actual youth attendance last year?
- What was the actual program budget last year?

Program Administration:

- Ratio of daily volunteers and/or paid program staff to daily number of participating youth.
- List any staff and/or volunteer pre-screening, license, certification or accreditation.

Program Budget

Total Program Budget: List all expenses relevant to your summer program (not annual budget) including, but not limited to labor, supplies, equipment, fees, travel, or any other items required for successful completion of your program. Please use the imbedded table provided.

Program Budget Narrative: This is your opportunity to explain your total summer program budget to reviewers, including any relevant information about in-kind support, confirmed funding, and specifically how you would apply the requested grant funds. (Character limit 1500)

Partial Funding: How will you proceed with this program if you only receive partial funding? Are there components that are more critical than others? If so, please itemize the components and corresponding costs.

Demographic Information

Communities/Populations Served

Ages of the population your program intends to serve.

- 6–8 - Number served
- 9–10 - Number served
- 11–13 - Number served
- 14–16 - Number served
- 17–18 - Number served

Race and ethnicity of community directly benefiting from your program (anticipated or actual, if known). [Asian or Asian American (including Central, South, and East Asia), Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx/Latine/Latina/Latino (any race), Middle Eastern, Native American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, White/Caucasian, Multiracial, Race/ethnicity not listed (please specify), Not applicable/My organization does not collect this information]

Gender identities of community directly benefitting from your program (anticipated or actual, if known). [Female, Male, Transgender, Non-binary, Two-Spirit, Gender identifier not listed, Not applicable/My organization does not collect this information]

How many people of the population your program intends to serve do you anticipate will identify as a disabled person/person with a disability? [Identifies as a disabled person/a person with a disability, Does not identify as a disabled person/a person with a disability, Not applicable/My organization does not collect this information]

Does the population you serve face a unique barrier(s) other than economics? If yes, please answer the following:

- Please describe the unique barrier(s) that the population you serve faces and their impact.

Grantee Final Report
Due September 30, 2027

*Please note that the items in bold will pre-populate on the report from your application responses.

Program Name.

Total Program $ Amount.

$ Amount Awarded.

Program Description: What will you do and why? When and where will you do it? Who will benefit or receive service from your program? Include any relevant statistics and resources. (Character limit 3000)

- Did you accomplish what you outlined in your program description? (Character limit 1500)

Outcome Description: How will you measure and evaluate your progress in ways that are relevant and meaningful to your program? Be as specific as possible about intended outcomes, outputs, and measures, as relevant to your program. If your program is awarded an ACF grant, you will be asked to complete a final report, wherein you will reflect upon the outcomes you articulated at the time of application. (Character limit 3000)

- Did you accomplish this? Were there any unanticipated outcomes? (Character limit 2000)
- How many unduplicated youth were served through the program?
- List any challenges encountered during the grant period that affected your organization's ability to achieve the intended outcomes. (Character limit 2000)

Program Budget

Program Budget: List all expenses relevant to your program including, but not limited to labor, supplies, equipment, fees, travel, or any other items required for successful completion of your program. Please use the imbedded table provided.

Program Budget Narrative: This is your opportunity to explain your program budget to reviewers, including any relevant information about in-kind support, confirmed funding, and specifically how you would apply any ACF grant funds. (Character limit 1500)

- Did you spend the full grant amount for the program as described in your application? How were the funds you received from this grant used? If there are any significant variances from the original application budget, please explain. (Character limit 1500)

Impact Story - optional

Please share an inspiring impact story and submit up to three digital photos (size 300 dpi or larger) along with consent for publication. Share how the community you served was changed by the program. We want to share the good news about your important work! (Character limit 1500)

Comments

Is there anything else you would like us to know about this grant and program? (Character limit 1500)

Terms and Conditions

1. I acknowledge that funding by the Arizona Community Foundation, its affiliates, or any of its philanthropic partners is not guaranteed simply by virtue of completing this application.

2. Should my organization be awarded a grant through this funding opportunity, I agree to submit a final report for this program by the final report due date.

3. Should my organization be awarded a grant through this funding opportunity, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

   Use of Grant. The Grantee shall use the grant only for the program and in accordance with the proposal and budget previously submitted to and approved by The Arizona Community Foundation. The Grantee shall not make any significant change in the program without the prior approval of The Arizona Community Foundation. At the end of the grant period, the Grantee shall promptly return to The Arizona Community Foundation any unused portion of the grant.

   Reports. The Grantee shall submit written reports on the accomplishments of the program as well as an accounting of expenditure of grant funds. Reporting and documentation required by The Arizona Community Foundation shall be provided as outlined in the Grantee Final Report, which will be available as the final report due date nears. The Grantee shall provide The Arizona Community Foundation with copies (if available) of any press releases, photographs and published material about the grant and the work it made possible.

   Meeting Requirement. The Grantee may be asked to attend a meeting at the Arizona Community Foundation, to be set at a later date, to discuss your program. Discussions on capacity building in the future and other topics will also take place at the meeting. A site visit to review the progress of funded programs will also be conducted.

   Publicity. You will allow the Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) to review and approve the text, including quotes, of any proposed publicity concerning this grant prior to its release. ACF may include information regarding this grant, including the amount and purpose of the grant, any photographs you may have provided, your logo or trademark, or other information or materials about your organization and its activities, in ACF's periodic public reports, newsletters, news releases or any other printed materials distributed by the Community Foundation. Please ensure that all publicity (including printed material, press releases and Web sites) states “partial funding provided by the Arizona Community Foundation” If you require an electronic copy of ACF’s official logo please contact the Marketing/Communications department at the Community Foundation.

   Retention of Records. The Grantee shall keep all financial records pertaining to the Program for at least four years and shall make such records available to The Arizona Community Foundation at reasonable times upon The Arizona Community Foundation's request.

   Revocation of Grant. The Grantee must return all unexpended grant funds immediately upon request by The Arizona Community Foundation if (1) the Foundation, at its sole discretion, determines that the Grantee has not performed in accordance with this Agreement, or (2) the

Grantee loses its exemption from federal income tax under Section 501C 3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the) "Code" and is classified as other than a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code.

Grant Does Not Create a Partnership. The Grantee shall not in any manner indicate, nor shall the grant or any documents related thereto be in any manner deemed to create or construed as creating, any kind of partnership, joint venture or other similar relationship between The Arizona Community Foundation and the Grantee or other party. The Arizona Community Foundation shall not be deemed in any manner responsible for the debts, liabilities or other obligations of the Grantee, including any such debts relating to this program.

Amendment. This Grant Agreement shall not be amended or revised except by a written document signed by the parties hereto.

Changes or Problems Occurring During Grant Year. Any changes or problems in the Grantee Agency that affects the Program must be reported to The Arizona Community Foundation immediately.