



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

# **Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding**

**22-OCFS-LCM-09**

**May 17, 2022**

# Purpose

Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding (“Sports Opportunity Funding”) allocations were released through a Local Commissioner’s Memorandum (LCM)

The LCM provided notification of the 2022 calendar year allocation for the new Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding.



# Development of the Funding

- New York State legalized mobile sports wagering in 2021 establishing that 1% of state mobile sports wagering tax proceeds be used to support grants for sports activities and education for youth
- A fund was created under OCFS for the purpose of providing annual awards to support sports programs for underserved children and youth ages 6 to 17
- The focus of the grants are to support youth development via local nonprofit organizations focused on sports

# Funding

Each municipal youth bureau was provided an allocation for the Sports Opportunity Funding to serve children and youth ages 6-17 based on the population of eligible youth in the county.

No county received less than \$5,000



# Sports Opportunity Funding award principles

- Sports are effective tools in positive youth development and family engagement, when delivered well by programs and minimum quality measures are met.
- Sports improve the lives of young people by promoting positive social, emotional, health, and educational outcomes and have important life-long impacts.
- Sports enable opportunities for young people to succeed economically through leadership roles.
- Coaching education greatly improves the sports experience and development outcomes of young people.



# Recommended Planning Indicators (AT LEAST ONE)

- Historically under-resourced communities
- Public housing
- High rates of family homelessness
- Opportunity Zones or neighborhoods/cities/areas deemed “low-income” via externally available tools like the Census Bureau, USDA income eligibility, etc.



# Planning indicators cont'd...

- Marginalized communities or groups with higher barriers to participation in sports (e.g., youth with disabilities, girls, transgender/gender non-binary youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning identified youth)
- Federally and/or New York State recognized tribes and tribal organizations
- Neighborhoods that experience higher rates of crime and violence and poorer performing schools.



Youth bureaus should give priority consideration to programs that serve

- youth identifying as Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), and/or
- providers of adaptive sports for youth with physical disabilities





# Intended Outcomes

- Educational connection and achievement – More youth attending and completing school with increased attainment, including programs that have collegiate placement success
- Physical health and well-being – Increasing physical activity and positive relationships to one's body and physical activity
- Mental health and well-being – Improving outcomes related to youth mental health and social and emotional skills development and connectedness

# Intended Outcomes cont'd...

- Employment – Increasing qualifications and skills, such as collective problem solving, teamwork, and dispute resolution, that help prepare youth for suitable employment
- Community cohesion – Breaking down barriers to reduce discrimination, crime, and violence in communities and help young leaders emerge

# Eligibility and Funding

- Municipal youth bureaus will contract with local organizations for up to \$50,000 per program.
- Organizations that serve multiple areas through different programs may be funded above \$50,000.
- Funding may provide general operating dollars to give programs flexibility to efficiently allocate resources for quality programming.



# Funding Criteria

- Provide structured sports activities for youth ages 6-17.
- Serve youth in New York State.
- Be certified as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- Be in good standing with the New York State Charities Bureau.



# Funding Criteria cont'd...

- Demonstrate basic competency in the areas of governance, monitoring and evaluation, partnership, and financial stewardship.
- Have a child protection policy in place that includes adherence to local city, agency, school district, and state child protection guidelines.
- Collect registration data, including participant demographic information as required by OCFS in such a fashion as to be able to accurately report anonymized aggregate data.



# Organizations and Activities NOT eligible for funding

- For-profit organizations or businesses.
- Private foundations, as defined in section 509(a) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- Organizations that discriminate based on age, ethnicity/race, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or other disability, national origin, or any protected characteristic under local, state, and/or federal law.
- Research or project planning activities.



# Organizations and Activities NOT eligible for funding cont'd...

- Support for elite or private sports camps, programs, or teams.
- Endowments, memorials, budget deficits, or fundraising activities.
- Religious organizations whose sports programs do not have a secular and community focus.
- Lobbying, political, or fraternal activities.
- Capital projects, except eligible facility upgrades.



# Quality Youth Development System (QYDS)

Municipal youth bureaus will be required to report demographics and outcomes through QYDS. The Life Area and SOS selections that will be required in QYDS for the Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding are as follows:

- Life Area: 2PEH Physical and Emotional Health
- SOS: 0232 Year-Round/Seasonal Activities





# QYDS Performance Measures

- How Much: 0232A.1 # of youth participating (unduplicated)
- How Well: 0232B.4 % of youth completing the program
- Better Off: 0232C.1 #/% reporting they have improved their ability to socialize/interact with peers/family/other members of the community



## Effective Date:

This directive was effective as of January 1, 2022.

The first year of funding will be for programs operating from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Claims for this period are due by June 30, 2023.



# FAQs

Q: Will this funding be included in the 2022 RAP and are the programs 100% reimbursed?

A: Yes. The LCM states “These new funds will be approved by OCFS and claimed in the same manner as the current Youth Development Program Funding”



Q: Is this reserved for municipal Youth Bureaus only or can the County apply and contract with a variety of programs?

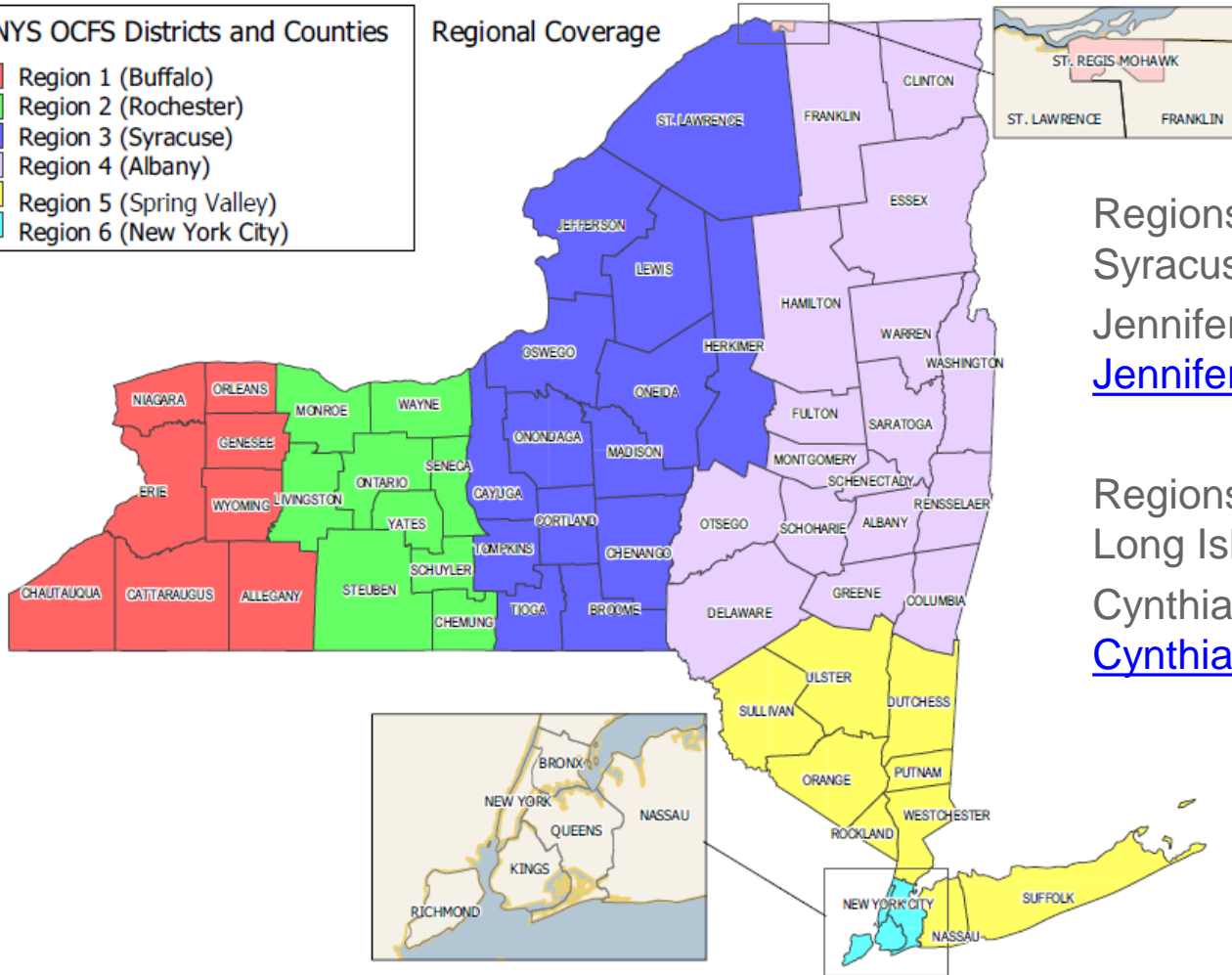
A: As defined by our regulations, “Municipality shall mean a county, or a city having a population of one million or more.” Therefore when we refer to municipal youth bureaus in this LCM it means the County is receiving the funds and should be contracting with local grassroots programs to provide the services.



NYS OCFS Districts and Counties

- Region 1 (Buffalo)
- Region 2 (Rochester)
- Region 3 (Syracuse)
- Region 4 (Albany)
- Region 5 (Spring Valley)
- Region 6 (New York City)

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