



LISC/ESPN PILOT HOME COURT PROGRAM GRANTS \$25,000 TO HELP BUILD A GYMNASIUM AT KIPP HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS
Award is part of \$150,000 in new grants for basketball courts nationwide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 7, 2018 – Connect Community has been awarded a \$25,000 LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court grant to construct a new gymnasium at the KIPP CONNECT High School in Houston, Texas.

The grant from ESPN and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation’s leading community development support organization, is part of \$150,000 allocated this year.

The LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court Program is a collaboration between ESPN and LISC that provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations, middle schools and high schools with financing and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local basketball courts in selected markets. The Home Court program is part of a larger ESPN social responsibility initiative, RePlay that works to revitalize vacant spaces into places for sports, recreation and play.

Connect Community, in partnership with KIPP Public Schools and the YMCA, will build a 7,000 square foot gymnasium space containing a full size basketball court with practice goals, full size volleyball court and two locker rooms. While the space will be located at KIPP CONNECT High School, it will be open to the larger community during out of school hours with an estimated use by 450 youth daily.

LISC identifies local, nonprofit, community-based agencies that have an interest in building or refurbishing basketball courts in schools and neighborhood parks. Through the program, local agencies are provided with the necessary financing and technical assistance to improve the quality and safety of

courts in their communities. The agencies oversee the construction, maintenance and programming of the courts.

“Basketball courts can serve as tremendous neighborhood assets,” said Kevin Martinez, vice president of ESPN Corporate Citizenship. “They provide more young people the ability to access to sports, which ultimately contributes to better health and quality of life for those in the community.”

“Our mission at LISC is to help build healthy and resilient communities of opportunity and choice – good places to live, do business, work and raise families,” said Amanda Timm, Executive Director of Houston LISC. “Building and refurbishing basketball courts is a key part of this journey and we are proud to partner with ESPN to support this new gym in Gulfton.”

About ESPN Corporate Citizenship

ESPN believes that, at its very best, sports uplift the human spirit. Its corporate citizenship programs use power of sport to positively address society’s needs through strategic community investments, cause marketing programs, collaboration with sports organizations, and employee volunteerism, while also utilizing its diverse media assets. For more information go to www.espn.com/citizenship.

About LISC

With residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America- great places to live, work, visit do business and raise families. Since 1980, LISC has raised more than \$20 billion to build or rehab more than 376,000 affordable homes and develop 63 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide. For more information, visit www.lisc.org.