



LISC/ESPN *Pilot Home Court Program*
A Community Basketball Court Program

The LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court Program is a collaboration between ESPN and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (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. Basketball courts can serve as tremendous community assets because they offer opportunities for recreation and relaxation that contribute to the local health and quality of life, especially for young people.

How the Home Court Program Works

ESPN and LISC issue a Request for Proposals (RFP), or an open invitation to all qualified nonprofit organizations in selected markets to submit proposals for funding. LISC reviews the proposals, requests additional information where necessary, and makes site visits to the finalist organizations. Then LISC recommends to ESPN which organizations have the capacity, plans, and partners to renovate their local basketball courts and to attract increased youth athletic programming to the site. ESPN makes the final funding decisions.

Once ESPN chooses the award recipients, LISC works with ESPN and the award recipients to make press announcements and handle media events. LISC then manages the flow of funding, making sure that projects move forward on a timely schedule. The proposal and review processes are designed to make sure that the capital improvements to renovate older basketball courts and establish new courts will have a stream of maintenance funds and the community support needed to sustain the use of the basketball courts over the long term.

ESPN Funds Leverage Other Investments

LISC works to ensure that basketball court projects receiving ESPN funding have matching dollars to meet their total development budgets and that sources of maintenance funds for the courts are located. Local matching funds are valuable because they create investment partnerships that strengthen the project. Moreover, the court projects are located in close proximity to other community revitalization efforts, creating a web of local investments that reinforce each other.

The LISC/ESPN Pilot Home Court Program also welcomes the involvement of individual NBA teams and players. LISC works to accommodate additional donations, promotions, and events from teams and players in agreement with the program guidelines.

LISC as an ESPN Partner

LISC is the nation's largest support organization for nonprofit community development. Since 1980, LISC has invested more than \$16.2 billion in non-profit neighborhood-based organizations that have leveraged those funds for a total of nearly \$48.5 billion in development. These local partners have used those funds to build or rehabilitate almost 348,000 affordable homes and apartments and create 56 million square feet of commercial and industrial space, including community facilities such as child and health care centers and parks and open spaces.

LISC operates through a network of 30 local offices, based in most of the country's largest metropolitan areas and a national rural program that works in approximately 1,200 rural counties in 40 states. Local offices allow LISC to have a hands-on approach to these development projects and to monitor these investments over the long term. LISC staff members have experience not only in real estate, but also in how to build the organizational capacity of neighborhood nonprofit organizations so that they are able to manage and lead local revitalization efforts.

About ESPN Corporate Citizenship

ESPN believes that, at its very best, sports uplifts 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.

Why Work with Neighborhood Non-Profit Organizations?

Many neighborhood-based non-profit organizations know how to manage capital improvements and to broker programming (e.g. youth basketball leagues, science fairs, summer festivals, and community celebrations) into local park and community play spaces. Equally important, neighborhood-based organizations engage residents as stakeholders. If local residents have a sense of ownership and see themselves as central to the creation and maintenance of recreation spaces, those developments are much more likely to be protected and preserved for long-term use. The Home Court Program is intended not only to respond to the immediate shortage of safe basketball courts, but also to build the infrastructure, through partnerships and resident involvement, to help sustain these recreational spaces for community use.