



**Atlanta United
Community Fund**
ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION



Atlanta United Community Fund/LISC GA 100 Initiative
A Community Mini Soccer Fields Program
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Overview

The goal of the GA 100 Initiative is to provide non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local mini-pitch soccer fields across the State of Georgia. The GA 100 Initiative is a partnership of the Atlanta United Community Fund (AUCF), which provides funding for the Program, and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which provides technical assistance and manages the Program. The GA 100 Initiative provides grants of up to \$100,000 for capital improvement projects.

In order to be eligible for a grant under the GA 100 Initiative, projects must be sponsored by non-profit community-based organizations registered as exempt from Federal Income Tax under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3) or elementary, middle, or high schools. In addition, **all organizations applying for funds must be located specifically and exclusively within the State of Georgia and serve under-resourced areas within the State.**

Strong preference will be given to those proposals that (1) seek to create mini-pitch soccer fields or 2) upgrade existing facilities that are in poor condition or otherwise underutilized; (3) demonstrate active use of the fields; (4) **attract matching funding that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1**; (5) involve local partnerships with non-profit community partners (e.g., Parks and Recreation Departments, YMCA branches, etc.) to promote youth sports safety and community programming on the fields; (6) provide for continuing maintenance and field safety; and (7) involve youth soccer programs that are currently registered and compliant with player safety programs. As noted above, grants are given only for capital improvements, and applicants may request a maximum of \$100,000 from the GA 100 Initiative. Please see “Availability of Funding” for stipulations involved with a \$100,000 maximum grant request.

Proposals are due by August 10, 2024

Please read the complete RFP before submitting a proposal.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO

SportsandRec@lisc.org

PLEASE SEND THE PROPOSAL AS A PDF ATTACHMENT AND INCLUDE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AS PER THE RFP.

DO NOT SEND THE PROPOSAL IN THE BODY OF THE EMAIL.

Please title the attachment with Organization and Project name.

GA 100 Initiative Objectives

Athletic fields can serve as tremendous community assets by offering opportunities for recreation, education, and relaxation that contribute to the local quality of life. The GA 100 Initiative seeks to address the shortage of clean, safe, and accessible mini-soccer fields in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the State of Georgia.

Non-profit neighborhood-based organizations can play a leading role in the improvement of existing or the creation of new athletic playing fields. Many of these organizations possess the capacity to address both the capital aspects of the field development and subsequent program elements (i.e., youth soccer leagues, sports tournaments, science fairs, summer festivals, community celebrations, and after-school events). Equally important to this experience, neighborhood-based organizations have connections to their community that legitimize their operations and draw resident support for their work. If residents have a sense of ownership and see themselves as stakeholders in the creation and maintenance of playing fields, these community assets are more likely to be protected and preserved for long-term use. The GA 100 Initiative is intended not only to respond to the immediate shortage of playing fields but also to build an infrastructure through partnerships and resident involvement that will sustain these open spaces for community use.

Availability of Funding

Field Surface Grants: Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to help finance the resurfacing of a community or school field or to applicants seeking to install new synthetic sports turf surfaces for soccer. The ability of these new surfaces to withstand constant use and require little ongoing maintenance costs makes this an attractive option for communities, schools, and youth groups to consider. If applicants choose to utilize natural grass/sod surfaces as opposed to synthetic sports surfaces, a minimum five-year maintenance plan and corresponding financial budget must be provided to demonstrate that the applying organization will maintain the field despite projected wear and tear and potential overuse by youth sports participants. Funds from the Initiative may not be used to maintain field surfaces, as all grant funds must be used for capital improvements.

Organizational Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Program, organizations applying for grant funds must meet **all** the criteria listed below:

- Be a community-based organization, elementary, middle school, or high school serving a neighborhood consisting primarily of under-resourced families and individuals within the State of Georgia. **Please note the following:**
 - *Schools must demonstrate access and ability of the larger community (beyond school programming) also to utilize the field.*
 - Universities and college campuses are not eligible to apply for GA 100 Initiative grants and will not be considered for funding.
- Have at least one full-time staff person (all-volunteer organizations will not be considered);
- Be in existence for at least three years.
- Have a proven track record in real estate development and/or athletic programming.

- Have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status/school status; and
- Be located within the State of Georgia

Selection Criteria

Organizations and their projects will be selected for funding based on the following criteria:

- 1. Feasibility of the proposed project.** The project budget must be based upon realistic costs, preferably written contractor estimates.
- 2. Project readiness.** Sources of funding for the entire budget should be identified. Plans for field renovation should consider the schedule of recreation activities over the course of the year. A project timeline should be specified in the proposal.
- 3. Impact upon the neighborhood and support from the community.** Only proposals that locate projects in under-resourced communities within the State of Georgia will be considered. The proposal should clearly state how the field improvements would benefit the community. It also must clearly detail how many youths and adults will make use of the field for soccer and other activities. Moreover, the proposal must also include a projected increase in the number of people that will use the facility because of the creation or improvements to the field. Support letters from other neighborhood and partner organizations and joint use agreements (where applicable) must be included, as well as contact information for the local youth soccer organizations and high school soccer programs scheduled to use the field.
- 4. Match funding.** A minimum local match of one dollar for every GA 100 Initiative dollar is required (1:1). For example, if the proposal requests \$100,000 from GA 100, it must demonstrate sources and commitments for at least \$100,000 in local funds and should demonstrate total funding sources to cover the entire costs of the project. Match funding at a higher ratio will strengthen the proposal. **Note: All funding request levels require a minimum 1:1 match. In-kind donations related directly to the construction of the field can also be considered upon review.*
- 5. Security of future field maintenance and safety.** Proposals must have written commitments of maintenance funding for a minimum of five years and a detailed five-year maintenance plan to demonstrate that the applicant will maintain the field despite projected wear and tear and potential overuse by youth sports participants. As a reminder, GA 100 Initiative funds may not be used to maintain field surfaces, **as all grant funds must be used for capital improvements to the field.** *See Narrative Description and image below re: field dimensions and safety requirements.*
- 6. Capacity of organization and its partners to carry out project.** The applicant organization must demonstrate, through its current management team and previous experience, the ability to manage a project of this size and nature.

Other Terms & Definitions:

Capital improvements refer to the physical development of the field and its surrounding amenities. Such projects may include but are not limited to, new or renovated irrigation systems, topsoil, sod or seeding, lights, bleachers, public address systems, fences, restroom or locker room facilities, goalposts, and scoreboards.

Public agencies (other than public schools) may not apply for grants from the GA 100 Initiative. However, community-based non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) designation, public schools meeting all other organizational criteria, and private schools with 501(c)(3) designation may apply to make improvements on fields owned and managed by public sector entities (e.g., City, Parks and Recreation Departments, etc.). In those cases, the applicant must show evidence that (1) the public entity supports the proposal; (2) the public entity authorizes the applicant to carry out the proposed capital improvements (this authorization must take into account relevant labor/union regulations and liability issues); (3) the public entity demonstrates its financial commitment to field maintenance; and (4) *the field is open to and used by the community for organized athletics and other events through joint use agreements.*

Application Procedures

To apply for funding under the GA 100 Initiative, please email a scanned copy of the following:

Cover Sheet: A one-page cover sheet including the following information:

- Name, address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the organization - Executive director and contact person (if different) for this application.
- Brief description of the proposed project
- Amount of funding requested.

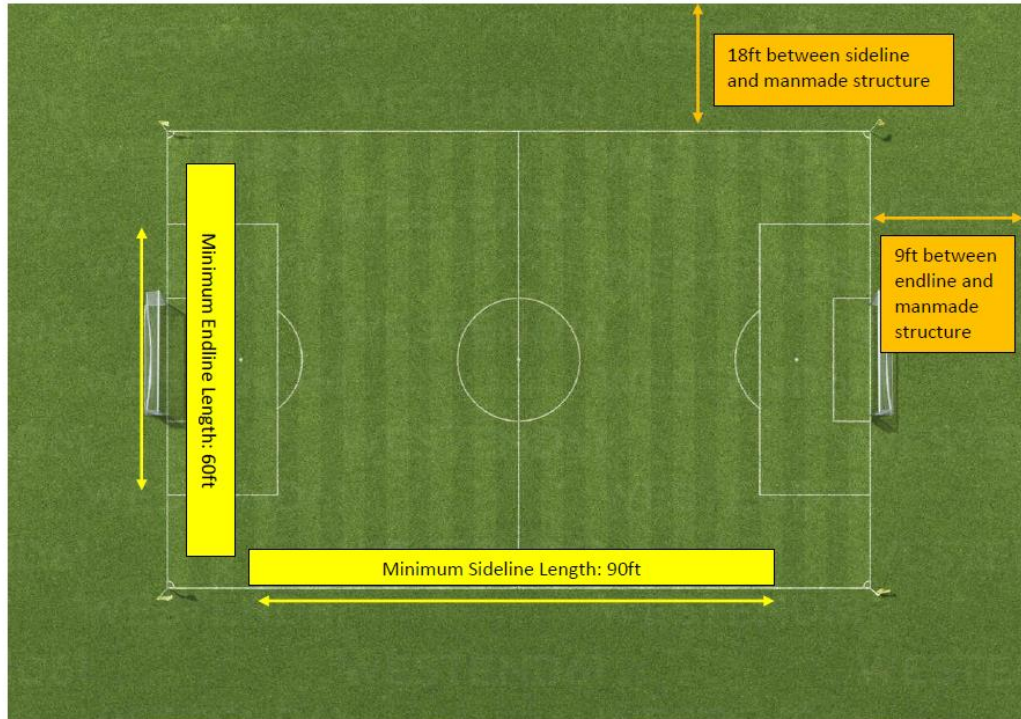
Please note that the use of the Atlanta United F.C., Atlanta United Community Fund, GA 100 Initiative, or LISC logos is expressly prohibited without written consent from Atlanta United, AMB Sports + Entertainment, and LISC.

Narrative: In no more than four (4) typed pages, address the following:

- *Description of the organization:* mission, history, and accomplishments, with a focus on the capacity to develop the proposed project.
- *Description of the neighborhood:* boundaries of the catchment area, income levels and ethnicity of the population served, condition of housing stock and main commercial areas, existence and conditions of local parks and open spaces (including community facilities);
- *Description of the project:* location, current condition, plans for site use, progress on this plan (including status on-site control, zoning, environmental review, and physical improvements), project budget and match funding, timeline for completion of the project, community support for the project, and agreements with partner organizations. ***Note: Mini pitch fields should be at***

least 60ft x 90ft. Smaller or larger fields may be considered to accommodate different audiences (smaller children and teens) at GA 100's discretion.

GA100 RFP Field Measurements



- *Impact of the project and future sustainability:* planned or anticipated programming in field space, including youth and high school soccer programs, plans for continued maintenance and safety of field (including long-term maintenance budget and timeline), and how the project fits into community plans for the neighborhood.
- Please indicate how you learned about the GA 100 Initiative.

Organizational Attachments: Please attach the following items:

- IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter
- Two most recent audited financial statements (preferably annual statements for 2021 and 2022)
- Most recent IRS 990 form (preferably 2022)
- Current List of organization's Board of Directors (contact information)
- Current list of youth soccer league organizations utilizing (or will use) the field, including league contact information.
- Current list of other youth sports organizations/activities utilizing the fields
- IRS W-9 Form

- Contact information for the point of contact on behalf of the partnering organization, along with a backup point of contact should the former leave the organization.

Project Attachments: Please include a copy of the following items:

- Project budget for the renovations/construction of the soccer field
- Financing commitment letters from match funding sources, including in-kind donation matches.
- Financial commitment letters and a detailed maintenance plan from organizations responsible for field maintenance.
- Field design plans, including field surface colors and design.
- Environmental reports (if necessary)
- Agreements and budgets for field programming (i.e., youth soccer)
- Letters of support and joint use agreements from field users and other community organizations
- List all partners involved in the development of the field.
- Contact information for the youth soccer organizations and high school soccer programs scheduled to utilize the field.

Proposals should be emailed to SportsandRec@LISC.org

Proposals are due by August 10, 2024. No exceptions.

If you have questions regarding this RFP, please contact LISC Sports & Recreation by e-mail at SportsandRec@lisc.org