



LISC & The Patriots Team Up for Sports & Recreation in Massachusetts

Athletic fields can help transform neighborhoods by offering opportunities for recreation, education and relaxation that contribute to the local quality of life. The National Football League (NFL) Foundation Grassroots Program provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of local football fields in underserved neighborhoods. Facilitating investments in fields and other recreation assets in communities is an important part of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation's (LISC) comprehensive community development strategy and mission. In partnership with the New England Patriots Foundation, the program has funded 12 community fields in Massachusetts since its start, totaling just over \$1.7 million in grants.

As a partnership between the NFL Foundation and LISC, the program has supported the construction or renovation of more than 400 projects nationwide in over 100 cities since 1998. Fields are newly built or significantly renovated with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers,

scoreboards, goal posts and natural sod or synthetic turf. The grants include recent field improvements at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Roxbury and improvements underway at Duggan Field in Springfield for students of John J. Duggan academy and the community as part of Duggan Park.

The NFL and LISC issue a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#), or an open invitation to all qualified non-profit organizations in NFL markets like New England to submit proposals for funding. The proposal and review processes are designed to make sure the capital improvements to renovate older fields and establish new football fields will have a stream of maintenance funds and the community support needed to sustain the use of the fields over the long term. Since 1998, the NFL Foundation has granted more than \$60 million to revitalize playing fields in underserved neighborhoods across the country. The current deadline for applications is May 31, 2022.

About the New England Patriots Foundation

Robert Kraft established the New England Patriots Foundation in 1994 to give back to the communities the Patriots call home. The mission of the foundation is to aid individuals and families that are often marginalized in our society. Through the implementation of year-round programming and support of philanthropic agencies, the foundation is building stronger communities throughout New England. For more information about the New England Patriots Foundation, visit www.patriots.com/community.

About Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Boston

Since our founding in 1979, LISC has invested \$24 billion to create more than 436,320 affordable homes and apartments, develop 74.4 million square feet of retail, community and educational space in communities across America. We have deep local roots, having invested more than \$400 million in the Massachusetts communities of Boston, the Gateway Cities, and beyond. We prioritize equity in our investments, from affordable housing and workforce development to growing small businesses and connecting communities to financing, technical assistance and resources to build capacity and stability. For more, visit www.lisc.org/boston.

