What is the ESPN RePlay Program?

The RePlay Program is a national effort led by ESPN and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) with the purpose and goal of revitalizing vacant lots into places for sports, recreation and play. With financial support from ESPN and Under Armour, along with technical assistance from LISC, RePlay provides grants to local community-based groups and other qualified organizations for planning and support of early stage projects, support of capital improvements and to close funding gaps for projects that are in the implementation phase of projects.

The goal of the ESPN RePlay Program is to repurpose vacant or underutilized spaces and increase access to quality recreation opportunities in low to moderate income neighborhoods. Four markets eligible to apply for the 2020 round are: Newark NJ, Flint, MI, Milwaukee, WI and Cincinnati, OH.

What Organizations Qualify for this Program?

To be eligible for the ESPN RePlay Program, organizations applying for grant funds must meet ALL of the criteria listed below:

- Be a community based-organization serving low to moderate income neighborhoods and communities
- Demonstrate accessibility of the space to local community residents, sports and/or youth groups via joint usage agreements or memorandums of understanding
- Be in existence for at least three years;
- Have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and have at least one full-time staff person (all-volunteer organizations will not be considered unless partnering with a qualifying local nonprofit);
- Have a proven track record in real estate development and parks or youth programming; and
- Be located in Newark, NJ, Flint, MI, Milwaukee, WI and Cincinnati, OH

Funding Availabilities

There are two levels of funding available:

1. **Planning Grants ($10,000):**
   Applicants may submit requests of up to $10,000 to hire architects to draw up preliminary plans, conduct community outreach and surveys, organize a coalition of public/private partners around a specific project, or to conduct other planning/pre-development activities. Applicants must demonstrate access to the property through memorandums of understanding or joint use agreements with vacant lot owners.

2. **Implementation Grants ($75,000):**
   Applicants may submit requests of up to $75,000 for implementation or capital improvement funding. These funds can be used to finance hard costs, such as excavation, materials, labor, and other related expenditures.

How it Works

To apply for funding under the ESPN RePlay Program, please submit a pdf of all required documents, as listed on the Request for Proposal, as an attachment to **SportsAndRec@lisc.org**. Proposals will be evaluated based on the extent to which they:

- Seek to revitalize a vacant lot or space into a place for sports, recreation, and/or exercise
- Show strong community support and organizational commitment
- For implementation grants, attract matching funds that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1
- Involve local public, private and non-profit community partners

Proposals are due by April 1, 2021

You can find the Request for Proposals on our website: [www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/health/sports-recreation/](http://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/health/sports-recreation/)

Please read the complete RFP before submitting a proposal.

**Email Submissions to SportsAndRec@lisc.org**

Questions and Support

If you have questions regarding this RFP, please contact Beverly Smith at LISC in New York at (212) 455-9881 or by email at bsmith@lisc.org or by visiting [www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/health/sports-recreation/](http://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/health/sports-recreation/)