



FUND FOR SPORT EQUITY

Impact is a team sport.



THE FUND FOR SPORT EQUITY IS BUILDING A YOUTH SPORTS SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES THAT WORKS FOR ALL KIDS.

When sports truly serve all kids, the ripple effects on society are profound—enhancing youth development, mental health, public health, safety, and education. However, the current landscape falls short. With over 50 million young athletes across the nation, disparities in access, quality, and safety persist due to a fragmented and decentralized youth sports system.

THE SPORTS SYSTEM **ISN'T WORKING** FOR ALL KIDS

70%

OF KIDS DROP OUT
BY AGE OF 13

American Academy of Pediatrics

20%

OF 6.5M YOUTH
COACHES GET TRAINING

Aspen Institute Project Play

\$883

AVERAGE COST PER YEAR
TO PLAY NATIONALLY

Aspen Institute Project Play

The Fund supports an innovative, grassroots movement that is growing across the country, focused on changing local youth sports systems to be more accessible, equitable, and youth-centered. Made up of programs, parents and policy-makers, communities are organizing and advocating to build a sports system where more kids are welcomed in and not pushed out.

Sports done well isn't just a game, it's a game-changer. This Fund is working towards a sports system where:

- All kids have access to a variety of sports that are inclusive and are designed to help them heal, grow, and thrive.
- All coaches prioritize the safety, health, and well-being of their athletes, and are trained how to do it.
- High quality programs have access to the funding they need to address the gaps in sport participation, with a focus on those most marginalized.

The Fund is investing in this movement to accelerate impact across the country.

KEY STRATEGIES

FUNDING

Giving directly to innovative, regional approaches to systems change and collective action in youth sports.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Supporting learning communities such as the Coalitions for Sport Equity and the SBYP Funder Collaborative.

RESEARCH + EVALUATION

Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating nation-wide data on the impact of the work collectively.

STORYTELLING

Influencing and advocating for more funding and institutional support for systems change in youth sports.

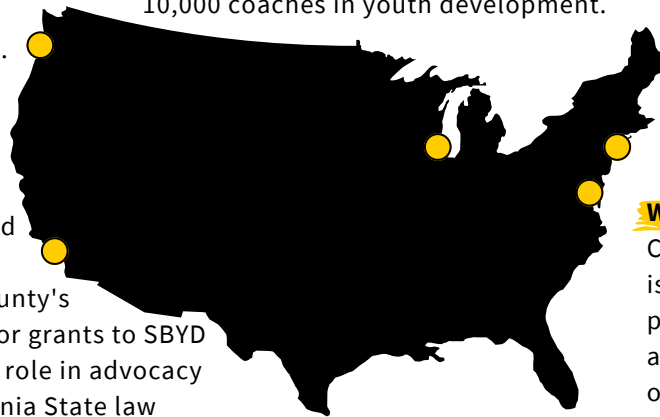
PARTNERS



LOCAL PROOF POINTS

SEATTLE: The King County Play Equity Coalition initiated and passed a new statewide recess bill in Washington in 2023 and now has its sights on a more comprehensive policy agenda.

LOS ANGELES: The Play Equity Fund and its network in LA secured \$15 million over 3 years from the LA County's Care First Community Investment for grants to SBYP nonprofits. They also played a lead role in advocacy effort that resulted in a new California State law requiring recess for all K-8 students.



CHICAGO: Sport for Good Chicago secured \$13 million over the past 3 years from the Illinois state budget to support access to sport for more than 30,000 kids and train more than 10,000 coaches in youth development.

PHILADELPHIA: The Collaborative serves over 80,000 youth in Philadelphia through its 70+ members. They recently secured state funding to place trained students in paid positions in schools and rec centers, addressing an acute shortage of coaches in the community.

WASHINGTON DC: The Fight For Children Youth Development Institute is building capacity of its 37 nonprofit partners to improve program quality and serve more kids. Since 2020, organizations have increased the number of kids served by 110% to more than 40,000 young people, while 70% have improved program quality.

THERE IS DEMAND FOR THIS APPROACH.

Networked together through the **Coalitions for Sport Equity**, more than 20 cities across the country have emerging or established grassroots sports coalitions. This emergent approach has proven to be an effective way to address systems-level change while being powered by community. However, resourcing the growth and sustainability of these efforts are a significant challenge. The Fund aims to meet this need, fueling a critical mass of regional hubs that are designing, piloting, and implementing impactful system-wide strategies.

GET INVOLVED

GIVE TO THE FUND

- ▶ Join other national partners as a member of the pooled fund and be included in the national granting process.
- ▶ Become a member of the Youth Sports Funder Collaborative, a group of national and local funders, professional sports teams, and foundations meeting quarterly.
- ▶ Automatically receive data, reporting, and analysis from grantees on the impact of your contribution.
- ▶ Attend Fund meetings and events and be included in materials and recognition on all communications.

GIVE LOCALLY

- ▶ The Fund also supports funders who give to their local coalition or intermediary directly. Local funders are invited to join the Fund's learning communities, evaluation systems, and storytelling efforts.

GOAL

\$30 MILLION

25 CITIES

FIVE YEARS

Timeline

The Fund is currently accepting contributions and aims to issue its first Request for Proposals (RFP) in the Spring of 2025.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Center for Healing and Justice through Sport, Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, Fight for Children, Mirnahill Foundation, Nike, Play Equity Fund, and Susan Crown Exchange.

Fund Administrator

The Fund will be held and disbursed by Play Equity Fund, a 501c3 Intermediary organization.

CONTACT

contact@fundforsportequity.org