



Public Health
Law Center

AT WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW



MINNESOTA RECREATIONAL USE

How to Pay for Recreational Use of School Property in Minnesota

Being physically active is important for both individual and public health.¹ The obesity epidemic is driven, in part, by sedentary lifestyles and the lack of physical activity. For people to be physically active, they must have access to safe, affordable, and convenient recreational facilities. As many communities do not have these recreational facilities available to them, public health advocates are focusing attention on ways to increase community access to safe, affordable, and convenient places to be physically active.² Communities with limited access to public recreational space are exploring opportunities to develop partnerships with schools for the use of school property to promote physical activity in the community.

School property can provide a valuable resource for community recreational space and facilitate physical activity through recreation and sport activities before, during, and after school hours.³ At the same time, schools and communities need to find ways to fund these efforts. The public health interest in promoting the recreational use of school property by communities is largely driven by efforts to reverse the rising rates of obesity and create healthier communities through increased physical activity. With greater access to recreational facilities, Minnesotans will have more opportunities to live healthy and active lifestyles.



There are many sources which provide grants for various projects, including recreational use of school property. Some common sources include federal, state and county government agencies, businesses, and foundations. The following list highlights various grant opportunities, many specific to Minnesota, that could potentially be used to fund shared use initiatives.

- **Blandin Foundation.** The Blandin Foundation was established to strengthen rural Minnesota. Eligible organizations must be tax exempt and align with Blandin Foundation's focus areas: vibrant home communities, skilled community leaders, and expanded rural opportunity. <http://www.blandinfoundation.org/what-we-do/grants.php>
- **Blue Cross Foundation.** Provides funding for programs that improve the long-term health of Minnesota communities and addresses inequalities in health. The foundation has four primary initiatives at this time: healthy children, access to coverage, healthy neighborhoods and health equity. <http://bcbsmnfoundation.com/>
- **Carlson Family Foundation.** The Carlson Family Foundation values education and programs that serve at-risk youth. Grant applicants must be tax-exempt and applications can be submitted in April, July or October. Visit their website to learn more: <http://www.clcfamilyfoundation.com/apply.asp>
- **Carol M. White Physical Education Program** offers grants to local education agencies to support physical education and after-school programming. <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html>
- **Central Minnesota Community Foundation.** This foundation, serving the St. Cloud area, has a renewed focus on youth and education, specifically reducing barriers to recreation and learning, and development of service and leadership roles. Its affiliates-the Alexandria Area Community Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation and the Willmar Area Community Foundation-also offer grant opportunities in their communities. Learn more: <http://www.communitygiving.org/pages/Home/>
- **Ecolab Foundation.** The EcoLab Foundation offers grants to organizations in the St.Paul area. Their strategic giving areas include youth and education, and civic and community development, among others. <http://www.ecolab.com/our-story/our-company/community-involvement/apply-for-a-grant>
- **Education Minnesota's Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.** The Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning offers grants for members and Education Minnesota, or for organizations that serve Education Minnesota members. Visit their website to learn more about current grant opportunities: <http://www.educationminnesota.org/en/events/foundation/programs.aspx>
- **Excel Energy.** Excel Energy supports a thriving corporate giving program. The giving program offers grants that focus on making communities a desirable place to live. To learn about potential grant opportunities through Excel Energy visit http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Community_Corporate_Giving
- **F.R. Bigelow Foundation.** The F.R. Bigelow Foundation strives to improve quality of life for the St. Paul community by supporting human services, community and economic development, education, health care, and arts programs. Visit their website to learn about current grants: <http://www.frbigelow.org/>

- **Fuel Up to Play 60.** The Fuel Up to Play 60 program seeks to promote childhood health by supporting healthy nutrition and physical activity initiatives in the school setting. The program was created by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League and supports the nationally recommended nutrition and physical activity standards. Fuel Up to Play 60 has a national funding program, providing up to \$4,000 for a qualified K-12 school enrolled in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Awarded schools can use the funds to support initiatives that target physical activity and/or healthy nutrition. Visit Fuel Up to Play 60 at <http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/home.php>
- **General Mills Foundation.** Every year, General Mills Foundation provides grants and matching gifts that support the people, neighborhoods and education of communities in the areas where General Mills works and lives. Their primary grant areas are education, family services, hunger and nutrition wellness and arts and culture. In 2012, grants and matching gifts from General Mills Foundations totaled approximated \$28 million. To learn more about General Mills Foundation grants, visit http://content.generalmills.com/Responsibility/community_engagement/Grants.aspx
- **McKnight Foundation.** The McKnight Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations and other public agencies that work to improve quality of life issues. <http://www.mcknight.org/grantsprograms/>

Established by the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota Initiative Foundations, is a collective of six philanthropic organizations representing six distinct regions of Minnesota. These six organizations each represent and work to strengthen the economies and communities of their respective geographic areas: Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Northland Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Initiative Foundation, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, and West Central Initiative. Priorities for each foundation are determined by the community which it represents. For potential funding opportunities visit <http://www.greaterminnesota.net/>

- **Park Nicollet Foundation.** The Park Nicollet Foundation offers Healthy Community Grants to non-profits that address health, healing and learning. <http://www.parknicollet.com/CommunityAndVolunteerism/Park-Nicollet-Foundation/Grants>
- **Pentair Foundation.** The Pentair Foundation provides support for programs that address workforce readiness, sustainability in water and energy, and education. Grants are given to qualified organizations in communities where Pentair employees live and work. Grant application cycles occur three times a year: March 1, June 1, and October 1. Pentair's headquarters are in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information visit <http://www.pentair.com/about-us/corporate-citizenship/the-pentair-foundation.html>
- **Pohlad Family Foundation.** The Pohlad Family Foundation primarily offers grants to programs that serve the nine-county Twin Cities metro area. Their funding is categorized in two areas: community and youth programs. Learn more <http://pohladfoundation.org/index.php>
- **St. Jude Medical Foundation.** St. Jude's provides grants that address quality of life issues specifically tied to cardiac and chronic pain conditions. Learn more: <http://www.sjmfoundation.com/foundation-grants/grant-request-instructions>
- **The Dorsey and Whitney Foundation.** The Dorsey and Whitney Foundation is committed to assisting organizations, programs and projects that seek to improve educational, civic, cultural and general well-being of communities. <http://www.dorsey.com/about/foundation/>

- **The Hormel Foundation.** The Hormel Foundation supports tax exempt, non-profit organizations located in Austin and/or Mower County, Minnesota. Grants are generally awarded to applicants with a charitable, educational or scientific purpose. For more information visit: <http://www.thehormelfoundation.com/>
- **The Minneapolis Foundation.** The Minneapolis Foundation offers community grants, strategically focusing on education, including student success, effective public education and community and parent engagement. Visit their website to learn more about available community grants: <http://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/CommunityGrants.aspx>
- **The Minnesota Department of Education.** State and federal grant awards are managed by the Minnesota Department of Education. Check the Minnesota Department of Education website for competitive grant opportunities: <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/Grant/index.html>
- **U.S. Bankcorp.** The U.S. Bankcorp Foundation strives to support community strength and vitality by contributing to non-profits organizations that focus on education, cultural and artistic enrichment, human services, and so forth. <https://www.usbank.com/community/grant-guidelines.html>
- **Wells Fargo.** Wells Fargo's philanthropic goals focus on organizations that strengthen communities. View their corporate giving guidelines to learn more about funding opportunities: https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/mn_guidelines

Other Sources

- GetEdFunding is a website created by professionals in the education field and is sponsored by CDW-G, a company that provides IT products and expertise to education, government and healthcare industries. The GetEdFunding website lists active grants for educators and institutions looking to implement innovating programming for students: <http://www.getedfunding.com/>
- U.S. Department of Education maintains an updated roster of grant opportunities. Visit www.ed.gov.
- Blank, M. J., Jacobson, R., Melaville, A., & Pearson, S. S. (2010). Financing Community Schools: Leveraging Resources to Support Student Success." Appendix D "Major Federal Funding Opportunities" nicely summarizes potential grants from federal government agencies. Careful research should be conducted though because the report is from 2010 and some of the listed grants may now be obsolete. Available at <http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/finance-paper.pdf>

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Endnotes

- 1 Mary Winston Marrow & Natasha Frost, *Finding Space to Play: Legal and Policy Issues Impacting Community Recreational Use of School Property*, Public Health Law Center 1 (Apr. 2012), available at http://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/PHLC_Finding%20Space%20to%20Play_2012.pdf. See also Lawrence H. Kushi et al., *American Cancer Society Guidelines on Nutrition and Physical Activity for Cancer Prevention: Reducing the Risk of Cancer with Healthy Food Choices and Physical Activity*, 62 CA: A Cancer J. for Clin. 30, 30-31 (2012), available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.3322/caac.20140/pdf>; William M. Haskell et al., *Physical Activity and Public Health: Updated Recommendation for Adults from the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Heart Association*, 116 Circulation 1081, 1082 (2007), available at <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/116/9/1081.full.pdf>.
- 2 Kushi et al., *supra* note 1, at 32-33; see also *Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity Within a Generation*, White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity 82-84, 97-98 (May 2010), available at http://www.letsmove.gov/sites/letsmove.gov/files/TaskForce_on_Childhood_Obesity_May2010_FullReport.pdf.
- 3 James F. Sallis et al., *Environmental Interventions for Eating and Physical Activity: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Middle Schools*, 24 Am. J. Prev. Med. 209, 209-10, 215-16 (2003), available at <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0749-3797/PIIS0749379702006463.pdf>.
- 4 It is important to review the grant guidelines closely to determine whether the project fits within the funder's priorities and guidelines.