MLSE FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2026-2027

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We are MLSE Foundation. An organization built on the belief that sport has the power to change the world. Our fight is to provide equitable access to sport and opportunity on the playing field that leads to success and opportunity off the playing field. With the support of the Toronto Argonauts, Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors and Toronto FC, we invest in programs, organizations and communities to empower the next generation to use sport to recognize and reach their potential. We know that by changing the game, we can change the future.

The Community Action Grant provides up to $50,000 per project to Ontario-based organizations that use sport and recreation to create positive opportunities for youth facing barriers. MLSE Foundation is proud to invest in community-driven efforts that advance equity and champion the power of sport to transform lives.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMELINES

Grant Portal Opens for Profile edits and creation Ongoing	MLSE Foundation's grant portal will open to accept organization profile edits and creations.
Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission Opens November 3rd, 2026 – December 15th, 2026	Expression of Interest proposals must be submitted no later than 5:00pm ET on December 15th, 2026.
Review Period January 7th, 2027 - January 21th, 2027	MLSE Foundation's Community Action Grant Selection Circle will review and rank eligible Expression of Interest proposals based on the selection criteria outlined in the Evaluation Rubric.
Invitation to Full Application January 28th, 2027	Shortlisted Expressions of Interest will receive an invitation to submit a more detailed Full Application. As well as an opportunity for a consultation call with an MLSE Foundation grant manager. Unsuccessful organizations will be offered the opportunity for feedback in June 2026.
Full Application Submissions Open February 2nd, 2027 – March 2nd, 2026	Portal will open for organizations to submit their Full Application.
Review Period March 5th, 2027 – March 23th, 2027	MLSE Foundation's Community Action Grant Selection Circle will review Full Applications based on the selection criteria outlined in the Evaluation Rubric.
Final Decisions & Award Acceptance April 1st, 2027	Successful organizations will be notified and asked to complete a grant agreement for fund distribution. Funds will be distributed to organizations by May 10th, 2027. Unsuccessful proposals will be notified and offered the opportunity for feedback in June 2027.

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

MLSE Foundation's Grant Staff review applications thoroughly to ensure the correct contact information and that applications meet the eligibility criteria below.

WHO WE FUND

- Governed by the Income Tax Act, MLSE Foundation is only able to grant funds to organizations that are classified as a Qualified Donee by the Canadian Revenue Agency as follows:
    - a registered charity
    - a registered Ontario amateur athletic association
    - a registered housing corporation in Ontario
    - a registered Ontario municipality
    - Metis, Inuit or First Nation community/Band
    - Organizations that do NOT have Qualified Donee status are still eligible to apply in partnership with a Trustee Organization who has Qualified Donee Status.
        - Please contact us if you need support finding a trustee.
- Organizations performing services in Ontario.

WHAT WE FUND

- Program serving youth aged 6-29
- Priority Demographics: Community Action Grants aim to create positive outcomes for youth facing systemic barriers, with limited access to quality sport programs, safe play environments, mentorship, and wraparound support. Do note that while all of the following communities are eligible for funding, proposals that directly serve **Black, Indigenous, and Women and Girl identifying youth** will receive the highest priority during the review process:
    - Black youth
    - First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth
    - Women & girl-identified youth (for gender-specific programming)
    - Newcomer and refugee youth
    - 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youth
    - Youth facing low-income barriers
    - Youth with disabilities (intellectual or physical)
- Geographic Diversity:
    - Organizations located outside of the Greater Toronto Area will be prioritized to ensure equitable distribution of charitable funds in the Sport For Development sector.
        - Greater Toronto Area: Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York, East York, Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton
- Types of Proposals Accepted (examples in appendix):

    - Pilot programs with innovative or unique approaches.
    - Grassroot local-level, community-driven, recreational programs
    - Established programs with demonstratable impact
- Types of Acceptable expenses
    - Program staff salary, training, and capacity development
    - Research and evaluation costs
    - Program equipment

WHAT THIS GRANT PROGRAM DOES NOT FUND

- Type of Organizations NOT Eligible:
    - Organizations that are not designated by the Canada Revenue Agency as being a Qualified Donee OR do not have a Trustee organization who has given written consent.
    - Organizations based outside of Ontario, or programs and Proposals based outside of Ontario.
    - Proposals that support any political party, politically affiliated group, or have active religious components as part of the programming activities. Proposals run by religious organizations are acceptable, provided that religious material is not part of the curriculum or activities of the program.
- Types of Proposals NOT Accepted:
    - Organizations looking for assistance with endowments or capital campaigns
    - Proposals for sponsorship of sports teams (both professional and amateur) requesting sponsorship support
    - Proposals supporting individuals
    - Proposals that do not have a sport and life-skills component
    - Proposals focused on health research – ie: injury, congenital health issues, disease
    - Proposals that emphasize the development of high-performance athletes
    - Proposals for one-time events
- Proposals that do not serve youth (Ages 6-29)
- Past grant recipients must wait one-year after their funding cycle ends before they are eligible to apply again (For example, if your organizations funding cycle ends in June 2026, your organization must wait until Fall 2027 to reapply)

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Capacity Building Opportunities: As part of the grant award process, organizations will be provided with the opportunity to engage in evaluation support tailored to their own needs within the grant period of their provided funds.

Through consultation with the measurement & evaluation team at MLSE Foundation, the objective of these opportunities is to strengthen sustainability, and empower organizations to demonstrate the impact of their program offerings in ways that are relevant to them. The organization's primary aim will be to develop and submit a collaborative impact report by the end of their granting cycle.

These capacity building services may include, but are not limited to:

- Support to determine the best outcomes of interest, or metrics to assess impact
- Accessing surveys and other tools to help measure outcomes
- Support in developing & creating new program outcome measurement tools and surveys
- Support with evaluating programs using outcome measurement tools and surveys
- Access to software to measure outcomes and track key metrics

GETTING STARTED

STEP 1: Creating an Organization Profile

Once you have confirmed your organization is eligible, follow the prompts to create an Organization Profile, in the Online Portal. All groups should update their profiles to ensure all information is correct, as we have made changes to the backend of the software. If you have applied for a Community Action Grant in the past, your login information should be unchanged, and you can skip directly to the Expression of Interest. If you have applied before, but you cannot remember your login information, or a previous staff member completed the application, please reach out to MLSE Foundation staff at Foundationgrants@MLSE.com

QUESTION	ADVICE
Organization Name	What is the name listed on your Charitable Registration Number?
Primary Contact First Name and Last Name	Who should we be communicating with daily?
Primary Contact Email	What is the best email to reach you at? Please provide a regularly monitored email address for day-to-day communication with MLSE Foundation staff. Avoid general inboxes.
Primary Contact Phone Number	What is the best phone number to reach you at?
How many additional contacts would you like to add?	Are there additional contacts you can add to ensure we can reach your organization in the event of a staff change? You can add up to five (5) additional contacts.
How many locations does your program operate out of?	Do you have more than one site? Is it different than your head office? Provide the address of each of your location sites.
Provide full address of Organization headquarters – all mail will be sent here	Your Location 1 address should be your primary mailing address and/or your head office location.
How many logos would you like to upload?	Please upload your primary logo, along with any other versions (e.g., single colour) you'd like us to have on record for use in promotional and marketing materials.
Social Media Handle: Facebook	Do you have a Facebook Page? Please put N/A if you do not utilize this platform
Social Media Handle: X, formerly Twitter	Do you have an X account? Please put N/A if you do not utilize this platform.
Social Media Handle: Instagram	Do you have an Instagram handle? Please put N/A if you do not utilize this platform.
Other Social Media (i.e. TikTok, Linkedin, etc)	Please put N/A if you do not utilize this platform.
Charitable Registration Number	Please include your Charitable Registration Number, or the number of your Trustee with your partnership letter attached.

	If you do not have a Charitable Registration Number or a Trustee, please contact Foundationgrants@MLSE.com to learn more about how to become eligible for a Community Action Grant.
I confirm that I have permission to submit the application under named Trustee	Let us know that you and your Trustee have had a conversation about your partnership, and they agree to support you for the purposes of this grant. This letter is required, and your profile will be marked ineligible if you are unable to provide confirmation of trustee by the EOI deadline.
Vision of your Organization	Tell us about your values as an organization (200 words max).
Mission of your Organization	What is your goal? What are you trying to achieve in your programs? (200 words max).
History of your Organization	How long has your organization been in existence? Any awards or accolades? Any overall metrics you can share? (200 words max).
Brief Description of Additional Program(s) Offered at Your Organization if Applicable	Please provide a brief overview of any additional programs your organization offers. This allows the review committee to get a deeper understanding of your organization and understand aspects such as sustainability, holistic youth services, and community engagement. (300 words max).
Does your organization identify as a B3, Women-led, or Indigenous organization?	See the glossary for definitions of B3, Women-led, and Indigenous organizations. This information is not tied to funding decisions but helps us better understand the organizations we work with and collect valuable program data, as demographic information will be further elaborated on in the Expression of Interest (EOI).
What is the demographic of the youth in your programs?	We recognize that intersectionality exists but select the demographics that is most closely related to the youth in your program. If there are other barriers not listed, please include them in the text box.
Is there a fee for service?	How much? Briefly explain why you have a fee and if there are measures to remove it for children/youth who cannot afford it.
Operating Budget of the Organization	What is your yearly budget to operate ALL your programs and services? If you have a Trustee, this should still be YOUR Organization's budget NOT the Trustee's budget.
I consent to having all future opportunities that become available for our organization be sent to our contacts listed (Ex. workshops, events, other grants etc.)	We want to send you updates on opportunities that might interest you and your staff. Please agree to receive those updates.

STEP 2: Completing Your Expression of Interest

Once your Organization Profile is created, complete the short Expression of Interest questions that will become available in your Online Portal. Use the guide below and accompanying rubric to help you complete your application. Remember that the following are available to support your application:

- Register for a regular drop-in style meeting where MLSE Foundation staff will support applicants and answer questions about your Expression of Interest.

QUESTION	**ADVICE**
Charitable Registration Number	Please include your Charitable Registration Number, or the number of your Trustee with your partnership letter attached. If you do not have a Charitable Registration Number, please contact Foundationgrants@MLSE.com to learn more about how to become eligible for a Community Action Grant.
Name of Organization	Name of the Organization operating the program
Name of Trustee (if applicable)	Provide the name of your Charitable Trustee, if you are applying under one.
Program Name	Name of the Program that you are applying for funding for.
Grant amount you are applying for:	$20,000 $30,000 $40,000 $50,000 Apply for the grant amount need. There is no preference given to the amount requested. You need to be able to use the funds awarded within three (3) years.
Over how many years will you use this funding?	Let us know the # of years it will take to use the funding requested. Priority will not be given based on length of program. I.e. An organization applies for $50,000 to be utilized over a total of 2 years
Has your organization received Community Action Grant funding from MLSE Foundation within the past five calendar years? If yes, please indicate the month and year your most recent funding cycle ended.	Yes - List the year(s) and amount(s) received. Note: Past grant recipients must wait one-year after their funding cycle ends before they are eligible to reapply. Ie: If your organization's funding cycle was completed any time in the 2026 calendar year, you would need to wait until 2027 to apply again.
Who is the primary demographic of your program?	Community Action Grants aim to create positive outcomes for youth facing systemic barriers, with limited access to quality sport programs, safe play environments, mentorship, and wraparound support. Do note that while all of the following communities are eligible for funding, proposals that directly serve **Black, Indigenous, and Women and Girl identifying youth** will receive the highest priority during the review process: o Black youth

	○ First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth ○ Women & girl-identified youth (for gender-specific programming) ○ Newcomer and refugee youth ○ 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youth ○ Youth facing low-income barriers ○ Youth with disabilities (intellectual or physical)
How many youth will your program serve in total?	Please indicate the total number of youth the program will serve across all delivery cycles.
What age are the youth that participate in your program?	We grant to organizations that offer programming for youth ages 6-29 years of age
In what City does the program run? If your program runs out of multiple cities and/or neighbourhoods, please list all locations that apply to this grant funding	Please be specific in your answer with address, city, and postal code. E.g. 50 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, M5J 2L2 Note that organizations and programs outside of the Greater Toronto Area will receive greater funding priority.
What is the main sport or recreational activity of your program?	See glossary for definitions. Choose one sport, or list multi-sport if your focus is varied.
Briefly describe the program's sport or recreation focus.	Briefly describe the sport or recreation focus of the program, i.e. football, soccer, multi-sport, land-based activities, yoga, etc. How are the sport or recreational activities structured and delivered in the program? For example, will participants engage in skills and drills, gameplay, rotations, or other formats? Please describe the specific activities and how they will be implemented. See glossary for definitions of *Recreation*.
Tell us what Sport For Development means to you and how your program employs it.	What unique approaches to Sport for Development does your program utilize? What gaps are you filling in the sector? *What unique or innovative approaches to sport delivery do you employ beyond traditional skills and drills? How are you embedding social development and cultural competencies into sport programming?* Consider how your program approaches sport delivery specific to the youth and/or the community(s) you serve, while also being responsive to specific cultural and sociocultural needs. Innovation can include cultural responsiveness, program design or delivery methods.

	See glossary for definition of "innovative". Example: This program innovatively blends the physical benefits of sports with the cultural richness of African-Caribbean drumming and dance, offering a holistic approach to youth development. Serving primarily Black youth, the program is intentional in its design as it equips young people with essential life skills, resilience, and a strong sense of cultural identity. By providing free, inclusive access to these culturally responsive activities, the program promotes health and wellness in a safe, non-judgmental environment. It offers a creative alternative to traditional sports, fostering community, teamwork, and personal fulfillment through dynamic group activities.
Briefly outline how life skills are integrated into your program.	See glossary for details. Make sure to identify how specific life skills were identified & informed. Example: In the track and field program, life skills like commitment and perseverance are integrated by challenging youth to set and achieve goals with the support of coaches, fostering resilience as they push through increasing distances. The program also emphasizes teamwork and collaboration by encouraging group running, which promotes social competence, inclusion, and a sense of belonging - a need identified by participants. The program incorporates youth mentors who have previously participated in programming, who can work with participants to identify unique goals and providing coaching, leadership, and vital mentee relationships.
Tell us about the impact this program will make in the lives of the youth you serve (Briefly describe)	What areas of social need will your program address for youth participants? What are the intended short-term outcomes? What are the intended long-term outcomes? How will these outcomes be realized? How have you previously seen program outcomes realized? Provide metrics, testimonials, and examples of previous measurement & evaluation methods, where possible.
Total budget of the program in numerical value	How much does it cost to run this program annually? For example: If your program runs 3 sessions a year, what is the total cost for all 3 sessions? It can be more than the grant amount you are applying for. It can also be less, if the funds you are requesting are to scale your program to additional participants, and you can demonstrate you have secured funding for your original locations/sessions.

I have read and accept the Grant Guidelines for the MLSE Foundation Community Action Grant.	Confirm that you have read these Guidelines.
To the best of my knowledge, I have provided accurate information in this application.	The information you provide in this application is truthful, to the best of your knowledge.
I understand that my application will not be accepted if it is submitted after the due date.	The due date for the Expression of Interest submission is December 15th, 2026. No Expressions of Interest will be accepted after the deadline.
By typing your name below, this will act as your electronic signature:	The person who agrees to this application should have signing authority. It does not necessarily have to be the main contact on your organization's profile.

CRITERIA	QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FROM EOI	0-POINT	1-POINT	2-POINT	3-POINT
Past Grant Recipient: MLSE Foundation has granted to this organization in the past five years	Has MLSE Foundation provided Community Action Grant funding in the past?	Yes	N/A	No	N/A
PRIORITY DEMOGRAPHIC: Community Action Grants aim to create positive outcomes for youth facing systemic barriers, with limited access to quality sport programs, safe play environments, mentorship, and wraparound support. Do note that while all of the following communities are eligible for funding, proposals that directly serve Black, Indigenous, and Women and Girl identifying youth will receive the highest priority during the review process:	What primary demographic does your program serve? Primary Communities of Focus • Black Youth • First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth • Girls & Young Women Emerging Communities of Focus • Youth facing low-income barriers • 2SLGBTQIA+ identified youth • Youth with disabilities (intellectual or physical)	Program does not demonstrate a focus on any of the listed communities of focus.	N/A	Program directly serves Black, Indigenous, and/or Girl/Women-identifying youth or an emerging community of focus	N/A

Program Location: The program operates outside of the Greater Toronto Area	Geographically, where does this organization operate their program? Inside GTA: Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York, East York, Toronto, Mississauga and Brampton	Inside GTA	N/A	Outside GTA	N/A
Sport for Development Integration: Tell us what Sport For Development means to you and how your program employs it. What unique or innovative approaches to sport delivery do you employ beyond traditional skills and drills?	What makes your program innovative for the Sport for Development sector? What approaches to sport delivery are you taking that are innovative?	Program does not demonstrate Sport for Development principles or innovative approaches	Program mentions Sport for Development principles or innovation, but application is unclear or limited.	Program applies Sport for Development concepts and shows some innovation, but impact or uniqueness is moderate.	Program clearly applies Sport for Development principles and demonstrates innovative approaches that enhance youth development and sector impact.
Life Skill Integration: To what extent does the program demonstrate *intentional life-skills development? **see glossary for definition*	Please provide a brief outline of the life-skill component(s) of your program	Program does not demonstrate intentional life-skills development.	Life-skill development is minimal or poorly defined; limited connection to sport/recreation activities.	Program includes life-skill development, but integration with sport/recreation is moderate or somewhat unclear.	Program clearly integrates intentional life-skills development with sport/recreation activities. Life-skill components are well-defined and meaningful.
Youth Impact:	What areas of social need will your program address for youth participants?	Program does not demonstrate meaningful	Program impact on youth and community is	Program shows meaningful impact on	Program demonstrates significant positive

To what extent will this program positively impact the lives of the youth served?	What are the intended short-term outcomes? What are the intended long-term outcomes? How will these outcomes be realized?	impact on youth or community; social outcomes and reach unclear.	limited or somewhat unclear; social outcomes and reach may be small or poorly defined.	youth and community, but outcomes or reach could be more detailed or specific.	impact on youth. Youth are served in meaningful and quantifiable ways, and outcomes are clearly defined.
Budget Impact: To what extent does the grant amount requested align with the proposed outcomes and number of youth served?	Does the budget match the program activities and # of youth served?	Budget does not align with program outcomes or youth served, and it does not seem sustainable for the length of the program.	N/A	Budget aligns with outcomes and youth reach. Budget appears to be feasible for long term sustainability of the program	N/A
Overall, this program should move on to the Full Application phase		No	Maybe/Somewhat	Yes	Strong Yes
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE		**/20**			

COMPLETING YOUR FULL APPLICATION

If your proposal is shortlisted, the Full Application questions will become available in your online portal. Use the guide below and rubric to help you complete the Full Application.

QUESTION	ADVICE
What is the anticipated start date of the program?	Tell us the projected start date of your program.
What date will your program complete utilizing the full amount of the grant?	Organizations have up to 3 years to utilize the entire funds. I.e. you are granted funds for the 2026/2027 Community Action Grant; grantees must use the entire grant amount by June 30th, 2030.
Grant amount you are applying for:	• $20,000 • $30,000 • $40,000 • $50,000 Apply for what you need. There is no preference given to the amount requested. You need to be able to use awarded funds within three (3) years.
Program Name.	Name of the Program that you are applying for funding.
Description of the program requesting funding - Outline the sport/recreation and life-skills component.	Tell us about your program and how it works. What is unique about it? What are the outcomes of the program? Have you seen the results in your program? *See glossary for definition of Life Skills*.
Tell us about how your program uses culturally relevant methods to serve the stated demographic in your EOI.	Please describe how your program integrates culturally relevant methods—such as community engagement, tailored approaches, and inclusivity—to effectively serve the demographic outlined in your Expression of Interest. For example, a program that serves racialized Women and Girls focuses on cultural relevancy by having female staff who reflect the identity of the participants to facilitate, coach, volunteer, and mentor throughout the program.
Incorporating Youth Perspectives/Lived Experience ***Tell us about how participant perspectives and lived***	MLSE Foundation emphasizes that youth perspective guides program design, to ensure that programming addresses self-identified barriers and provides agency to youth.

experience are incorporated into program development.	How are the perspectives of the youth you serve incorporated into program design? How do you ensure that program design is reflective of participant needs? For example: - Do you hold a consultative process? - Does research inform your program design? - Do youth have an opportunity to identify program outcomes?
Tell us about how this program will create systemic impact for the youth it serves. ***Please elaborate on any community relationships, partnerships, or connections that enable youth success.***	How does this program challenge systemic barriers faced by the youth it serves? How does it create opportunities for youth that enable their development & success, pertinent to their unique challenges? For example: in a program that supports Newcomers, how will this program empower recently arrived youth to integrate into the community? How will it implement local support systems, such as resources and mentors, to address barriers specific to newcomers?
Is this a pilot program?	If yes, identify what makes this program unique from other similar programs.
Do you intend to use these grant funds to subsidize the cost for participants?	We aim to support programs that remove barriers to participation. If you do charge fees, how can youth access your program at a subsidized rate or for free?
What age are the youth that participate in your program?	Grant funds can be dedicated towards programs that serve youth aged 6-29.
What is the length of one program cycle?	A program cycle is the length of time from start to finish. No preference will be given for the length of the program cycle.
How many program cycles run in one year?	No preference will be given based on the number of program cycles.
How many hours are offered in one program cycle?	Total number of hours for one program cycle.
How many unique individuals (youth) will be served by your program?	Example of a 'unique individual' – If you have the same individual attend program 3 times a week they would only count as one unique individual.

Please attach the program schedule to outline the number of days and hours the program will run, if available	
Total budget of the program in numerical value	The total budget for your proposed program. This can exceed the amount of your grant request.
Please upload a detailed budget of how these grant funds will be used.	We want to see where the grant dollars will be allocated. This budget would detail how you intend to spend the grant dollars you are requesting. The number should match the grant amount you are requesting. E.g. Detailed budget for $50,000
If the program costs exceed the grant amount requested, please explain how your organization will cover the gap in funding.	Outline your plan for securing additional funding here. This can include a list of current or prospective funders, partnerships, grants, or other supports that your organization will use to acquire funding.
Organizational innovation & sustainability: ***How will your organization position this program for success beyond this grant?***	We aim to fund programs that are sustainable or have demonstrated a plan to continue beyond our grant funding. What is your organization's plan for growth and scale programming outside of this funding? What **innovative** approaches does your organization utilize to position itself for long-term programs and operation? Please describe any strategies, sector partnerships, in-kind relationships, and evaluation processes in place to maintain program impact and adapt to changing needs over time.
Program Measurement & Evaluation: **Please elaborate on any evaluation frameworks that your organization uses to measure program success.**	What evaluation frameworks does your organization use to measure success? How does it ensure that proposed youth outcomes are captured and evaluated for future program improvements? Please include any evaluation methodologies that have been used. Examples can include, but are not limited to: - Counts and process numbers of youth served (i.e. registration, attendance, program hours) - Capacity building opportunities offered (i.e. number of coaches/staff trained) - Surveys or questionnaires

	- Interviews or focus groups - Observational tools - Anecdotal evidence (data collected in informal or casual ways - Example: Personal testimony)
Measurement & Evaluation Requirements: ***I have read and understand the following:***	*MLSE Foundation's Research & Evaluation team is committed to supporting grant-funded organizations with program evaluation and impact measurement. This exercise allows MLSE Foundation in capturing program and community impact in the Sport for Development sector, supporting the case for funding and growth.* *As such, grant-funded organizations will commit to a minimum of one (1) call with our Research & Evaluation team, to explore services available to them.* ***Services are in-kind, and free-of-charge to grant recipients.*** *Additionally, these services provide opportunities for grant-funded organizations to build evaluation capacity, to aid with impact measurement and communication. Services include, but are not limited to 1) refining data collection tools and 2) support in developing logic models.* □ *I understand that by accepting a Community Action Grant, our organization commits to one (1) mandatory discovery meeting with MLSE Foundation's Research & Evaluation team to explore collaborative opportunity.*
I have read and understand the following:	□ I have read and accept the Grant Guidelines for the MLSE Foundation Community Action Grant. □ I have provided accurate information in this application. □ I understand that my application will not be accepted if it is submitted after the due date. The due date for the Full Application submission is 5:00pm ET on February 9th, 2026.
By typing your name below, this will act as your electronic signature:	The person who agrees to this application should have signing authority and the ability to bind the organization. It does not necessarily have to be the main contact on your organization's profile.

CRITERIA	QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	0-POINT	1-POINT	2-POINT	3-POINT
Program Description: The description of the program provided is clear and well organized. The program addresses both physical skill building and life-skill building.	Program Sport or Recreation Focus. Description of the program requesting funding - Outline the sport/recreation and life-skills component.	Description unclear or incomplete	Description lacks detail or clarity. Focuses mainly on either sport/recreation or life-skills, not both.	Description is mostly clear. Addresses both areas but one component is less developed.	Clear, well-organized description. Program effectively integrates both sport/recreation and life-skill components.
Cultural Relevance: The program is designed to intentionally serve the primary demographic of youth participants.	Tell us about how your program uses culturally relevant methods to serve the stated demographic in your EOI.	Program does not demonstrate intentional design or cultural relevance for the stated demographic	Program mentions the target demographic but lacks clear or consistent culturally relevant methods.	Program shows intentionality and some culturally relevant elements but could further align with the target demographic.	Program is clearly designed around the needs of the stated demographic and uses culturally relevant, inclusive approaches.
Youth Voice & Perspectives in Programming: Tell us about how participant perspectives and lived experience are incorporated into program development.	MLSE Foundation emphasizes that youth perspective guides program design, to ensure that programming addresses self-identified barriers and provides agency to youth. How are the perspectives of the youth you serve incorporated into program design? How do you	Program design does not incorporate youth perspectives or experiences. Program is designed with no form of youth consultation, input, or insight.	Program design briefly includes youth perspectives or experiences, but without any clear methods on how outcomes were defined. Outcomes lack understanding of needs faced by priority community.	Program design includes a moderate amount of youth perspectives or experiences, and moderate detail on methods used to inform outcomes. Examples of methods may include research, consultation, focus groups, though may	Program design demonstrates a high involvement of youth perspectives and experiences. Methods by which youth input is gathered is clear (consultation, research, focus groups etc) and iterative. Outcomes

	ensure that program design is reflective of participant needs?			lack iteration and thus clarity in outcomes.	are clearly identified through engagement of youth.
Systemic Impact for Youth: Tell us about how this program will create systemic impact for the youth it serves**.**	How does this program challenge systemic barriers faced by the youth it serves? How does it create opportunities for youth that enable their development & success, pertinent to their unique challenges.	Program does not demonstrate clear understanding of systemic barriers faced by participants, nor include opportunities that address said barriers.	Program demonstrates a broad understanding of systemic barriers faced by participants, but does not include any opportunities outside of programming to address them (no organized method).	Program demonstrates a moderate understanding of systemic barriers faced by participants, and aims to introduce informal opportunities or pathways to address said barriers (ie: volunteer opportunities). Program elaborates on any sector/community relationships that might create youth opportunities.	Program demonstrates a clear understanding of systemic barriers faced by participants, and includes structured opportunities (or formal pathways to opportunities) that address said barriers (ie: paid employment). Organization demonstrates formal/community sector relationships that allow it to create intentional pathways for youth success.
Addressing Financial Barriers:	Do you intend to use these grant funds to subsidize the cost for participants?	Program does not address financial barriers; participation costs	Program has minimal cost reduction; most participants still	Program is partially subsidized or low-cost; some financial barriers	Program is fully free or heavily subsidized, removing financial

This application demonstrates the program removes financial barriers to participation through no cost, low cost, or heavily subsided programs	If yes, would it then make your program completely free?	remain a barrier for youth.	face financial barriers	remain but are reduced.	barriers for all participants. Grant funds directly support this accessibility.
Budget Alignment: To what extent does the grant amount requested align with the proposed outcomes?	Total budget of the program in numerical value Please upload a detailed budget of how these grant funds will be used. This budget would detail how you intend to spend the grant dollars you are requesting. The number should match the number you are requesting	Budget does not align with program outcomes; requested amount is unclear or unjustified.	Budget partially supports program outcomes; unclear allocation of funds or gaps in explanation.	Budget is generally aligned with program outcomes but may lack some detail or minor discrepancies in requested amount vs. planned expenses.	Budget is realistic, detailed, and fully aligns with program outcomes. Requested grant amount matches the budget and clearly supports intended activities.
Funding Plan: Application demonstrates a funding plan to cover any financial gaps for program operations.	***If the program costs exceed the grant amount requested, please explain how your organization will cover the gap in funding.***	No clear explanation of plan to fill financial gaps. No prospective or current fundraising streams included.	Explanation lists few fundraising mechanisms, including prospective or first-time funding, but lacks detail on timing and commitment of funds (ie: statements such as “we will fundraise”).	Explanation broadly outlines plan for funding, (including prospective, first time, or returning fund streams) but cannot confirm secured funding.	Explanation clearly outlines a methodical, time bound fundraising strategy that includes past, current, and prospective fundraising streams. A clear, secured plan for funding is outlined.

Organizational innovation & sustainability: How will your organization position this program for success beyond this grant?	We aim to fund programs that are sustainable or have demonstrated a plan to continue beyond our grant funding. What is your organization's plan for growth and scale programming outside of this funding? What **innovative** approaches does your organization utilize to position itself for long-term programs and operation? Please describe any strategies, sector partnerships, in-kind relationships, and evaluation processes in place to maintain program impact and adapt to changing needs over time.	Program lacks a sustainability plan; continuation beyond this grant is unlikely.	Program has limited plans for sustainability; future operation may be uncertain if additional funding is not secured.	Program has some sustainability measures in place, but planning is partially defined or may depend heavily on future grant funding.	Program has a clear, realistic plan for sustainability beyond the grant, including diversified partnerships, community relationships, or other resources.
Program Measurement & Evaluation: Please elaborate on any evaluation frameworks that your organization uses to measure program success.	What evaluation frameworks does your organization use to measure success? How does it ensure that proposed youth outcomes are captured and evaluated for future program improvements?	Program does not incorporate a framework for measurement & evaluation.	Program includes a broad framework for measurement & evaluation, but lacks detail on methods and Key Performance Indicators.	Program includes a moderately clear framework for measurement & evaluation, including data collection tools and Key Performance Indicators, but no action plan for	Program incorporates a clear and proven framework for measurement & evaluation (ie: logic model, data collection, culturally relevant

				implementing evaluation insights. Measurement & evaluation plan is not proven.	feedback), clear Key Performance Indicators, and a clear plan for how it would action evaluation insights.
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE		**/ 27**			

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary has been provided to aid your application. This is not an exhaustive list. If you have questions about any terms or concepts within this application, we would love to talk to you. Email a grant administrator (foundationgrants@mlse.com).

Black-Focused Organization	Delivers culturally responsive programming/services, organizational leadership includes leaders that identify as Black, and regularly collaborates with Black-lead organizations
Black-Led Organization	Mandate to serve Black community, identity at the center of services/programs, with Black leadership at all levels (i.e. staff, executive, governance)
Black-Serving Organization	Supports causes that impact Black communities, responds to communities' unique cultural identities, history and needs, and has Black beneficiaries (i.e. Services users)
Indigenous-Led Organization	An organization who identifies as First Nation, Metis, or Inuit-led, and whose primary beneficiaries also identify as Indigenous.
Indigenous-Serving Organization	An organization that responds to the unique cultural needs of Indigenous communities and whose primary beneficiaries identify as First, Metis and/or Inuit.
Innovation/Innovative	Introducing new ideas; original and creative in thinking, that advance your outcomes, or pilot new ways of doing things. Programming that moves beyond normal and expected methodologies.
Intentional	Done on purpose; deliberate. We see strength in programs that use sport to intentionally teach life-skills. While we recognize that sport has inherent benefits, we know that behavior change takes deliberate practice. We want to see programs that deliberately incorporate teaching life skills on and off the court.
Life-Skills	Soft skills that equip youth to thrive in the community, classroom, workforce, and the world beyond. Includes things like critical thinking, grit, leadership, resilience, self-esteem, self-regulation, social competence, etc.
Outcome(S) Evaluation	An assessment of how effective the program is at producing change. Outcome evaluations (or impact evaluations) focus on the questions that ask what happened to program participants and how much of a difference the program made for them. Basically, did your program work? Did you achieve your program goals and see behavior change?

Qualified Donee	Under the Income Tax Act, qualified donees are organizations that can issue official donation receipts for gifts they receive from individuals and corporations. Registered charities can also make gifts to them. Qualified donees are as follows: • a registered charity • a registered Canadian amateur athletic association • a registered housing corporation resident in Canada constituted exclusively to provide low-cost housing for the aged • a registered Canadian municipality a registered municipal or public body performing a function of government in Canada
Quality Sport Delivery	Quality sport experiences lay the foundation for building physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy youth who are active in life. Beyond simple skill performance, quality sport focuses on the overall development of youth. It incorporates learnings from industry standards such as: Long-term athlete development model, fundamental movement skills, culturally relevant and responsive programming etc.
Recreation	We take a broad view of recreation and sport. If the activity proposed has a physical health benefit- raised heart rate, sweating, strength building etc., we would consider it part of recreation/sport. If your proposal falls outside of traditional sport and recreation, feel free to email a grant administrator Foundationgrants@MLSE.com . We are open to answering any questions.
Sport For Development	Sport for development (S4D) refers to the intentional use of sport, or any form of physical activity, to provide youth with the opportunity to develop life skills, that lead to positive behavior change.
Women-led	Commitment to serving the women's community, with a focus on identity at the core of our services and programs, and ensuring women's leadership at all levels, including staff, executive, and governance.

LEGAL AGREEMENTS

To submit a Project ("Project") Proposal ("Proposal") to MLSE Foundation for consideration in the Grant Program, each organization (also referred to as a 'participant') must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Your organization must be a qualified donee as designated by the Canada Revenue Agency or have a Trustee that is a qualified donee, as designated by the Canadian Revenue Agency. Visit the CRA's website to view a list of qualified donees.
    - If you have a Trustee, be prepared to provide an agreement letter stating your partnership. The Trustee is legally responsible for the grant application and the project executed by your organization.
- The person submitting the Project Proposal must be an employee, or designate, of the registered charitable organization associated with the Project Proposal.

- The charitable organization associated with the Project Proposal must be in Ontario and serve children and youth in Ontario.
- The Grant must be spent within three (3) years of receiving it. The funding for the Project should be completed by no later than July 1, 2030, unless otherwise approved by MLSE Foundation.
- The Project should promote physical activity amongst youth in Ontario.
- The Project should include the transference of life-skills through sport.
- The Proposal must be submitted in one of Canada's two official languages: English or French.
- The Proposal must be submitted by no later than 5:00pm ET on December 15th, 2026 (the "Submission Deadline").

The Grant Program will not fund:

- Organizations that are not designated by the Canada Revenue Agency as being a qualified donee and do not have a charitable registration number – unless a charitable trustee has given written consent
- Organizations looking for assistance with endowments
- Sports teams (both professional and amateur) request sponsorship support.
- Individuals
- Organizations based outside of Ontario
- Proposals that do not have a sport and/or sport for development component
- Proposals that do not serve youth (Ages 6-29)
- Organizations who intend to use Grant funds to support programs, proposals or children based outside of Ontario.
- Organizations who do not submit a Proposal directly, but instead as part of a third-party initiative.
- Proposals that contain any offensive, obscene, or sexually suggestive material, propaganda, potentially misleading information, or defamatory or disparaging material about other people or companies or endorse any form of hate or hate group or terrorist activity.
- Proposals that support any political party or affiliated group, or directly promote or speak negatively about any religion, political action, legislation or party, or promote or encourage the violation of any law, as determined in the sole discretion of MLSE Foundation.
- Proposals that discriminate based on gender, race, religion, creed, national origin, disability, handicap, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis prohibited by law, as determined in the sole discretion of MLSE Foundation.
- Proposals that promote any activities that may appear unsafe or dangerous, as determined in the sole discretion of MLSE Foundation.
- Proposals that include any mention of any specific individual, company, brands, or products or any trademarks or other material, owned by a third party without the express

written permission of that third party (which written permission must be submitted with the Proposal).

A Proposal that does not meet the eligibility criteria above will not qualify for consideration under the Grant Program. If MLSE Foundation determines, at any time during the Grant Program, in its sole and absolute discretion, that a Proposal does not meet or continue to meet the eligibility criteria set out above, the Proposal will be eliminated from competing in the balance of the Grant Program.

MLSE Foundation reserves the right (but in no way assumes any obligation) to screen all Proposals, including all written and visual content, prior to presentation of any Proposal to the Selection Circle (defined below) for consideration. Any Proposal deemed by MLSE Foundation to be inappropriate or to have inappropriate content will not be presented to the Selection Circle, and the charitable organization responsible for any such Proposal could be banned from submitting a Proposal to the 2026-2027 Grant Program or any future grant programs of MLSE Foundation, depending on severity of the inappropriate content, in MLSE Foundation's sole discretion.

Official Terms and Conditions ("Rules ")

Participation in the Grant Program, including, without limitation, the submission of a Project Proposal, constitutes full and unconditional agreement and acceptance of these Rules, which are final with respect to all matters relating to the Grant Program.

Grant Program Period: The Grant Program will commence on November 3rd, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET with the opening of the Expression of Interest (EOI) submission period, which will close on December 15th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET. The EOI review period will take place from January 7th, 2027, to January 21st, 2027. Applicants invited to proceed will receive an Invitation to Full Application on January 28th, 2027. The Full Application submission period will run from February 2nd, 2027, at 12:00 p.m. ET to March 2nd, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET. The Full Application review period will occur between March 5th, 2027, and March 23rd, 2027. Final decisions and award acceptances will be announced on April 1st, 2027.

Proposals which are (as determined by MLSE Foundation in its sole discretion) incomplete, fraudulent, inconsistent with the Eligibility Criteria or submitted by an ineligible participant are null and void. MLSE Foundation reserves the right (but assumes no obligation) to notify parties submitting ineligible Proposals. By submitting a Proposal to the Grant Program, participants agree to comply with these Rules and be bound by the decisions of MLSE Foundation, which are final with respect to all matters relating to the Grant Program.

MLSE Foundation accepts no responsibility for Proposals which are lost, misdirected or delayed for any reason, nor is any responsibility assumed for incorrect or inaccurate capture of submission information, including (but not limited to), malfunction, human error, lost/delayed/garbled Internet/email transmission, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, or failures of any telephone, technical, network, online, or hardware or software or any combination hereof.

MLSE Foundation's sole and exclusive obligation to the confirmed Grant Recipient is the payment of the Grant amount in accordance with these Rules. MLSE Foundation will not make any additional commitments or payments beyond the amount of the Grant and all additional costs and expenses associated with the Project are the sole and exclusive responsibility of the participant.

Proposal Selection Process: The selection of the eligible Grant Recipient from all eligible Proposals received will be conducted as follow:

MLSE Foundation will select a judging committee (the "Selection Circle") made up of members of MLSE Foundation Staff and Board of Directors, and external community members. Open calls to be a part of the Selection Circle have been posted online.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Grant Recipient will be notified by email, using the email provided in the Proposal. No other contact or correspondence associated with the Grant Program will be entered into with participants/applicants, except with the potential Grant Recipient(s).

Before being declared the Grant Recipient, the potential Grant Recipient must sign and return a Declaration of Eligibility and Liability Release, confirming the potential Grant Recipient's eligibility in the Grant Program and releasing MLSE Foundation, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. and each of their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, officers, governors, agents, and their advertising and promotional agencies (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any and all liability in connection with: (a) participation in the Grant Program; (b) the acceptance and use of the Grant; and (c) the administration of the Grant Program by MLSE Foundation, including (without limitation) the selection of Grant Recipients. Prior to being declared the Grant Recipient, the potential Grant Recipient will be required to present MLSE Foundation with reasonable proof of all facts and/or representations made within the applicable selected Proposal including, without limitation, proof of charitable status.

All documentation referenced in the preceding paragraph must be returned and delivered to MLSE Foundation on or before the date indicated on the respective documents or the Grant may be forfeited. If a potential Grant Recipient does not meet any of the Grant Program eligibility requirements, their selection will be disqualified and the next highest ranked Proposal may, in the sole discretion of MLSE Foundation, be selected. The process may continue until the Grant Recipient has been successfully selected and confirmed in accordance with these Rules. MLSE Foundation is not responsible, whether due to human error or otherwise, for failure to contact any potential Grant Recipient. Upon compliance with the above, the Grant Recipient will be directed by MLSE Foundation on how to claim his/her Grant.

A Grant Recipient's refusal or inability to accept the Grant as awarded shall release MLSE Foundation from all obligations related thereto.

By submitting a Proposal to MLSE Foundation, participants are committed to executing and completing the Project detailed in the Proposal if chosen to be the Grant Recipient. If at any point during the Grant Program, a participant does not believe, in good faith, that they will be able to execute the Project detailed in the Proposal if they are chosen as a Grant Recipient, they must contact MLSE Foundation to renegotiate the intended proposal, or return all amounts of the Grant awarded to MLSE, immediately should an alternative program not be viable, as decided by MLSE Foundation.

Proposal Content: By submitting a Proposal, all participants irrevocably assign to MLSE Foundation all rights (including copyrights) in any Proposals or expressions of ideas provided on or through the Grant Program including, without limitation, the Proposal and all comments, suggestions, graphics, and other information or materials submitted in the Proposal and comments on or through the Grant Program website (collectively, "User Content"), all of which will become and remain the exclusive property of MLSE Foundation, including any future rights associated with such materials. MLSE Foundation and its licensees and designees shall have the right to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, create derivative works from, distribute, and display the User Content for any purpose (including without limitation for purposes of advertising, publicizing, and promoting the Grant Program and/or MLSE Foundation or its affiliates), in any media whatsoever, now or hereafter known, throughout the universe, in perpetuity, without compensation (monetary or otherwise) or notice to you (collectively, "Usage Rights"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, participants (and applicable third parties) shall retain all ownership rights over any support material provided, but hereby Grant to MLSE Foundation and its licensees and designees all Usage Rights (subject to any limitations specifically identified to MLSE Foundation in writing with respect to any third-party element incorporated in the support material). Participants release and will indemnify the Released Parties from all claims against them with respect to any intellectual property or other proprietary rights, rights of privacy and publicity, rights of attribution, or any other liability under the governing law of Canada, arising in connection with the Proposal or the Project.

Participants represent and warrant that:

- they have obtained all third-party consents necessary to make the foregoing assignments and representations
- their Proposal is unique and original, and that the participant has all necessary rights in and to the Proposal and each individual component thereof
- their Proposal does not violate any law, statute, ordinance or regulation
- their Proposal will not give rise to any claims whatsoever, including, without limitation, claims of infringement, invasion of privacy or publicity, or infringe on any rights and/or interests of any third party
- is not defamatory, trade libelous, pornographic or obscene, and further that it will not contain, depict, include, discuss or involve, without limitation, any of the following: nudity (partial or otherwise); alcohol/drug consumption or smoking; explicit or graphic sexual activity, or sexual innuendo; crude, vulgar or offensive language and/or symbols;

derogatory characterizations of any ethnic, racial, sexual, religious or other groups; content that endorses, condones and/or discusses any illegal, inappropriate or risky behaviour or conduct; personal information of individuals, including, without limitation, names, telephone numbers and addresses (physical or electronic); any identifiable third party products, trade-marks, brands and/or logos; and/or any other content that is or could be considered inappropriate, disparaging, unsuitable or offensive, all as determined by MLSE Foundation in its sole and absolute discretion.

By submitting a Project Proposal for consideration in the Grant Program, each participant:

(i) waives all moral rights in and to his/her Proposal and each individual component thereof in favour of MLSE Foundation (and anyone authorized by MLSE Foundation to use the Proposal or a component thereof); and

(ii) agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from and against any and all claims related, directly or indirectly, to his/her Proposal (or a component thereof) – including, without limitation, claims based on publicity rights, defamation, invasion of privacy, copyright infringement, trade-mark infringement or any other intellectual property related or other cause of action. For greater certainty, the Released Parties reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to modify, edit or remove any Proposal (or a component thereof), or to request a participant to modify or edit his or her Proposal (or a component thereof), if a complaint is received with respect to the Proposal (or a component thereof), or for any other reason at any time. If such an action is necessary at any time, then MLSE Foundation reserve the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to: (a) disqualify the Proposal; (b) disqualify the participant; and/or (c) to take whatever action MLSE Foundation deems appropriate in circumstances as determined by MLSE Foundation, in its sole and absolute discretion.

Privacy: By submitting a Proposal, each participant consents to the collection, use, and disclosure of their personal information by MLSE Foundation for the purposes of (i) facilitating the administration of the Grant Program, (ii) allowing MLSE Foundation and/or authorized third parties selected by MLSE Foundation to provide the participant with information on MLSE Foundation initiatives and other grant programs, provided the participant has consented to receiving such information. The collection, use and/or disclosure of any personal information that the participant provides are subject to MLSE's Privacy Policy which is set out at: http://www.mlse.com/privacy_policy.aspx.

Indemnification: By participating in the Grant Program, each participant agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Released Parties against any and all liability, damages or causes of action (however named or described) with respect to or arising out of either: (i) participation in the Grant Program; (ii) the receipt or use of a Grant awarded herein; or (iii) the administration of the Grant Program (including Grant Recipient selection) and distribution of the Grant awarded herein.

By entering the Grant Program, each participant agrees to release, waive and discharge any and all claims of damage, loss or causes of action (including, negligence), including (but not limited to)

death, personal injury or loss or damage to property, which the participant or any of the participant's representatives, heirs, next of kin or assignees may have or which may hereinafter accrue to them against the Released Parties as a result of participation in the Grant Program or the receipt or use of the Grant awarded herein.

Termination/Modification: Subject to applicable law, MLSE Foundation reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Rules or administration of this Grant Program, in whole or in part, without prior notice, with no obligation or liability, including if for any reason the Grant Program is not capable of running as planned, whether due to infection of computer viruses, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failure or other failures that, in MLSE Foundation's sole opinion, corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity or proper conduct of the Grant Program.

Tampering: The following are prohibited and will result in the automatic disqualification of the Proposal from the Grant Program: (1) using any method (directly or indirectly) that artificially increases odds of being selected as the Grant Recipient (2) non-compliance with these Grant Program Rules; and (3) any other act which jeopardizes the integrity of the Grant Program.

MLSE Foundation shall not be responsible for tampering, theft, human errors (including gross negligence) ineligibility, lost, late or misdirected Proposals or for any problems, failures or technical malfunctions of any telephone network or lines, computer online systems or servers, computer software problems or traffic congestion on the Internet, or on any website and assume no liability for damage to participant's or any person's computer resulting from participating in the Grant Program or the failure of MLSE Foundation to process any Proposal and otherwise award a Grant. MLSE Foundation assumes no responsibility for printing errors appearing in these Rules or related Grant Program materials. In addition, MLSE Foundation will not assume any responsibility of any nature whatsoever in all cases where its inability to hold the Grant Program or to remit the Grant results from a cause beyond its control, including Acts of God, weather conditions, strike, lock-out or other labour dispute. Any attempt to deliberately damage any website or to undermine the legitimate operation of this Grant Program is a violation of criminal and civil laws and, should an attempt be made, MLSE Foundation reserves the right to fully seek remedies and damages permitted by law, including criminal prosecution.

Governing Law: This Grant Program and its Rules shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the Province of Ontario, without regard to conflicts of laws principles, and all participants expressly agree that the Ontario courts shall have sole jurisdiction over any dispute or litigation arising from or relating to this Grant Program and agree to submit to the laws of and the jurisdiction of the federal courts of Canada and provincial courts of the Province of Ontario, and hereby waive the jurisdiction of any other court that now or in the future could be considered competent for any reason. The venue shall only be Toronto, Ontario.

APPENDIX

Types of Proposals Accepted:

Pilot programs with innovative or unique approaches. Examples include:

Integrated Education and Sports: Combine sports activities with educational components such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) to engage in various interests and add another layer to the program.

Digital Platforms and Technology: Utilize wearable devices like Fitbits to track participants' performance metrics. This data-driven approach helps coaches create program plans, set up fun challenges with leaderboards, and offer rewards, boost motivation, engagement, and camaraderie among participants.

Cultural Integration: Incorporate cultural elements and traditional games into the sports program to celebrate diversity and create a sense of belonging, engaging in different community groups effectively.

Grassroot local-level, community-driven, recreational programs. Examples include:

Community Soccer Stars is a grassroots soccer program dedicated to engaging racialized women and girls aged 6-14 in the joy and benefits of playing soccer. The program operates out of several neighbourhood community sites, providing a safe and supportive environment for youth to develop their soccer skills, make new friends, and stay active. The program organizes free weekly practice sessions, local tournaments, and community events to foster a sense of teamwork, engagement, leadership, and community pride. This program is actively working to foster cultural safety by addressing the unique barriers faced by racialized women and girls. One approach includes the recruitment and training of female coaches, who are well positioned to understand and address the cultural sensitivities and challenges faced by participants. The coaches also participate in training programs that provide the coaches with foundational knowledge and strategies to create a culturally safe environment for participants. The program is designed to bring back past participants as coaches and mentors, creating a pathway for youth to be introduced to more opportunities. This program design aims to empower participants by placing them in situations where they can challenge systemic barriers and actively work towards meaningful solutions.

Established programs with demonstratable impact. Examples include:

The Equine Therapy program offers a diverse range of physical equine-based activities, both in the saddle and on the ground. Participants are involved in daily horse care and maintenance, as well as exercises such as longing, obstacle courses, and basic riding skills. These activities demand energy and stamina, fostering the development of core strength, proper posture, flexibility, and balance. Beyond physical benefits, the program also equips youth with new perspectives, problem-solving approaches, and emotional self-regulation skills applicable to their daily lives. The program aims to enhance reported outcomes of improved self-esteem and increased confidence

from 81% to 100%. To achieve this, we are expanding our youth programming, growing our volunteer program, and partnering with the local school board to incorporate co-op students from the high school.

The MLSE Foundation is dedicated to accountability and transparency in its grant-making processes. Should you have any concerns or issues with the application process and/or a member of staff, please contact any of the following members of staff to raise any concerns.

- **Stephen.sullivan@mlse.com (Coordinator, Community Partnerships)**
- **Curtis.Lue@mlse.com (Manager, Community Development and Marketing)**