

# Association of New York State Youth Bureaus

*The Cornerstone of New York's Youth Development!*



## Statewide Youth Sports: Allocate a Minimum of \$2 Million to Youth Bureaus

ANYSYB supports the FY 2023 Executive Budget proposal of \$5 million appropriated for a statewide youth sports activities and education grant program for underserved youth under the age of eighteen years, representing a \$4 million increase. **ANYSYB recommends that a minimum of \$2 million be allocated to municipal youth bureaus to sub-contract to local youth bureaus and youth serving community based organizations offering sports programs and healthy activities. Such funding will allow for expansion and creation of sports, recreation and healthy activities serving New York's most vulnerable youth with proven outcomes.**

For decades, youth bureaus and the sub-contracting community-based organizations supporting youth (such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Boys & Girls Clubs, YM/YWCAs) have offered healthy activities, sports & recreation and education to underserved youth across New York State. In 2020, Youth Bureaus served over 1.3 million youth, many who are BIPOC, LGBTQ+, runaway and homeless youth, as well as those in juvenile justice and child welfare programs. Positive youth development integrated in physical & healthy activities, and sports in particular, can positively affect aspects of personal development among youth such as self-esteem, goal setting, and leadership skills. In addition, the activities and sports build crucial motor skills, prevent obesity and reduce stress & mental health challenges.

Youth Bureaus, and their subcontractors, have proven outcomes through the many sports, recreation and healthy activity programs and services that are in place. By allocating a percentage of this funding through this network, programs and services can be strengthened, and increase participants' access and attendance.

### Examples of Youth Bureau Sports & Healthy Activities

#### Southampton Youth Bureau

The Southampton Youth Bureau's basketball clinic has been operating since 2020. What started out as a push into a summer program at a local park has grown into a standalone program provided all year long. Youth learn shooting, passing, and patience, while working on drills. Games are organized for the more experienced youth in gymnasium space at the local schools.

Basketball lessons offered keep youth engaged and provide them skill development in team building, communication, and self-confidence. The program mainly attracts minority youth, giving them a sense of belonging and support.

Annually, the Southampton Youth Bureau has been hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament during March Madness. The tournament is open to youth in grades 5 through 12, with brackets created for grade levels 5th through 8th and 9th through 12th. Teams are three players each and prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place prizes in each category.

We also offer a karate program weekly out of our community center. Karate teaches youth respect and focus, while teaching tolerance and improving self-confidence. The Youth Bureau supplements the cost of the teachers to make the program affordable for youth from low income families in the community.

#### Wayne County Youth Bureau

Wayne County has a parks/trails program with a family and youth trails passbook. The county offers sports camps for all types of activities – swimming, tennis, volleyball and more. As both a Youth Bureau and an Office for the Aging, additional funding would be used for intergenerational activities – “Walking Buddies” corn hole tournaments, bowling, and other health activities with children and older adults.

#### Clinton County Youth Bureau

At the Clinton County Youth Bureau, recreation and sports is a big part of what we offer. Our biggest program is our seasonal county sports programming. We organize and oversee Soccer, Basketball, and Baseball/Softball for all the towns in our county. In addition to these seasons we do much in the way of sports/recreation as smaller events including Pickle Ball Clinic for youth 10 and under, 3v3 Soccer Tourney/Shoot Out for youth 6-18, Fall Fun Run, Family Snow Shoeing, Ice Skating, Basketball clinics and more.

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## Examples of Youth Bureau Sports & Healthy Activities (cont'd)

### Mount Vernon Youth Bureau

Mount Vernon Youth Bureau offered tennis, basketball, karate, soccer, volley ball and swimming for the first time last summer. It was a huge hit and funding is needed to continue it year round. With additional funding, Mount Vernon is ready to add fencing, cheer and lacrosse for youth under 18.

### Chautauqua County Youth Bureau

Our Youth Bureau has funded summer swim programs for a number of years in the many lakes around our area, swim programs are not only a great sport but are crucial for the safety of our youth. Swim programs teach youth how to swim and educate them on water safety. Swim safety is not only invaluable for youth that are out swimming but also for understanding what to do in a flood which can happen due to our close proximity to Lake Erie and the creeks and river that flow through our county. We also offer mentoring programs that are held at the YMCA and outings to local colleges. The program includes recreational activities and sports which assist with working on life skills, character building, tools and interactive activities.

### City of Salamanca Youth Bureau

Over 200 youth participated in the free 8 week Supervised Playgrounds and Theater Programs. Programs include soccer, basketball, obstacle kickball, softball, football, frisbee, jump rope, etc. The Arts Alive Summer Theater also had many interactive and physical games as part of learning the Theater ice breakers. The programs we offer are free to any child between the ages of 5-15 and are co-located in their neighborhoods. With the rise in childhood obesity related to sedentary lifestyle, increased screen time, poor diet, and particularly this past year- the isolation and mental health issues related to COVID 19, the case can easily be made for additional funds for Youth Sports/Physical activity, to get the youth active and engaged in physical activities. These activities also release endorphins which lift spirits and increase mood, helping with youth mental health issues.

### Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau

The Village of Gowanda serves 400-500 youth for sports recreation activities. Some of these activities are: swimming, track and field, co-ed soccer and a learn to ski program. In the City of Olean, the youth sports recreation activities serve approximately 5000 youth. Some examples of programs include ages 6-12 in a summer youth recreation program, 100 per day in a wading/activity pool, youth basketball grades 4-6, learn to skate, golf and more!

### Madison County Youth Bureau

The Village of Hamilton's five-week Summer Youth Recreation Program provides Red Cross certified swimming lessons to the children in and around the municipality, including the Towns of Eaton, Hamilton, Madison, and beyond. This program offers instruction in water safety, basic swimming strokes, and the skills necessary for life-long health and fitness in and around open water. Also, our program helps young people develop social skills and self-confidence in the safe and nurturing setting of Colgate University's Lineberry Natatorium.

Camp Lookout Conducts a volunteer CIT Program for youth aged 14 to 17. Youth have an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the camp community while being mentored and supported by our staff in a healthy, safe, and positive environment. The Program gives past campers the chance to pay forward their camping experience and welcomes new teenagers to our community. The Program focuses on supporting the camp community while improving their leadership, communication, and social skills, learning to accept individuals' differences, promoting positive interactions, creating a nurturing camp community, and learning the importance of service.

The Fit Kids Expansion Project is located at the Oneida Family YMCA and is integrated into the existing "Y Care," after-school program, (which serves all elementary schools in the Oneida School District). The "Fit Kids" Program Component operates two out of five days per week. The YMCA Fit Kids program partners with a number of community partners and resources for additional funding and referrals to external programs. For example, the Oneida Health Foundation has and will continue to fund a portion of the program, as the costs exceed the proposed request. The YMCA will also incorporate other community resources, such as BRIDGES of Madison County for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Presentations/ Counseling, Counseling Services of Madison County, Liberty Resources, Child Health Associates of Madison County, Beacon Center, NYS Addiction Hotline, Catholic Charities, and the OCFS into the program curriculum. In addition, the Fit Kids Program invites specialized speakers, based on the needs of the group being serviced (i.e. LGBTQ Support Groups, Help Restore Hope, Job Corps, CareNet, etc.)

## ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE YOUTH BUREAUS

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