SPORTS EVENT GRANTS

Sports & Exhibition Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 10, 2026

SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY
SPORTS EVENT GRANTS PROGRAM
2026 Round Two Grant Award Announcement

PITTSBURGH, PA: The Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) and its Sports Commission have awarded 15 Sports Event Grants (SEG) Program grants totaling $513,700 that are projected to generate approximately $41.7 million in economic impact for Allegheny County, estimated by SportsPITTSBURGH.

The SEG Program provides financial assistance to support major sporting events that provide significant economic impact to Allegheny County. Qualifying organizations must have been in existence for at least two (2) years. Qualifying events include athletic or Esports events, whether professional or amateur, that are regulated and sanctioned by a regional, national, or international organization. The event must take place sixty (60) days after the application period ends and within two years of the application date. Funding up to $75,000 may be awarded in the form of a grant or loan.

The following sporting events were awarded grants:

ALPHA TOURNAMENT COMPANY (ALPHA TOURNAMENT COMPANY PITTSBURGH TOURNAMENT SERIES)
A youth hockey series for ages 4 to 18 featuring six round-robin tournaments taking place Friday, September 25, 2026, through Sunday, May 30, 2027, at various ice rinks throughout Allegheny County. Grant amount - $20,000.

PITTSBURGH CURLING CLUB (PITTSBURGH CURLING CLUB 2026/2027 BONSPIEL SERIES)
Six curling tournaments for ages 15 to 75 expecting participation throughout the United States and Canada taking place Friday, September 25, 2026, through Sunday, June 6, 2027, at the Pittsburgh Curling Club. Grant amount - $7,000.

PITTSBURGH DERBY BRATS (MONSTER MASH, BRIDGES AND BLIZZARDS TOURNAMENT, ROLL INTO SPRING TOURNAMENT, IT'S GONNA BE MAY(HEM))
A junior roller derby series consisting of one single-day and three multi-day tournaments for ages 9 to 17 taking place Saturday, October 17, 2026, through Monday, May 31, 2027, at the RMU Island Sports Complex and Pittsburgh Indoor Sports Arena. Grant amount - $6,000.

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VARSITY SPIRIT, LLC (VARSITY SPIRIT CHEER COMPETITIONS)
Four all-star cheerleading competitions for club teams across the Midwest of ages 4 to 18 taking place Saturday, November 14, 2026, through Sunday, March 21, 2027, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - $30,000.

STEEL CITY SQUASH (2027 STEEL CITY OPEN (SINGLES) AND 2026 CITY OF BRIDGES OPEN (DOUBLES))
A five-day international professional women's squash singles tournament and a three-day national professional women's squash doubles tournament taking place Friday, November 20, 2026, through Sunday, March 7, 2027, at the Steel City Squash Center. Grant amount - $40,000.

PITTSBURGH GRASS VOLLEYBALL (MONTOURMANIA)
An indoor turf volleyball tournament for amateur adults competing across a variety of skill levels taking place Saturday, December 16, 2026, at the AHN Montour Sports Complex. Grant amount - $5,700.

72POINT5 PROMOTIONS (MONROEVILLE MAT MADNESS, KEYSTONE QUALIFIER, & KEYSTONE STATE SOUTHWEST QUALIFIER)
Three youth wrestling tournaments attracting participants ages 6 to 16 from Western and Central Pennsylvania taking place Friday, January 22, 2027, through Tuesday, February 16, 2027, at the Monroeville Convention Center.
Grant amount - $30,000.

THREE RIVERS ROWING ASSOCIATION (THE USROWING INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS / PITTSBURGH INDOOR SPRINTS)
An indoor rowing competition for ages 14 to 81 that hosts the USRowing Indoor National Championships taking place Saturday, February 6, 2027, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - $10,000.

GREATER PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE DEAF (CAAD 2027 - 82ND ANNUAL MEN'S & 20TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL/CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT)
A three-day basketball tournament accompanied by a three-day cornhole tournament taking place Friday, March 19, 2027, through Sunday, March 21, 2027, at the ALL AMERICAN+ Field House. Grant amount - $10,000.

ESL FACEIT GROUP (INTEL® EXTREME MASTERS PITTSBURGH 2027)
A Counter-Strike 2 esports championship tournament featuring 16 international teams and 28 matches taking place Friday, April 16, 2027, through Sunday, April 18, 2027, at the Petersen Events Center. Grant amount - $75,000.

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3STEP SPORTS LLC (2027 HOOP GROUP PITT JAM FEST)
A three-day youth basketball tournament for boys ages 10 to 18, hosting 620 teams from over 25 states and multiple countries taking place Monday, April 5, 2027, through Sunday, April 11, 2027, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Rize Sports Facility, and Mt. Lebanon High School. Grant amount - $50,000.

PITTSBURGH THREE RIVERS MARATHON INC. (USATF HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS)
A championship event for individual elite athletes serving as a qualifier for the 2028 USAF Olympic Team Trials taking place Sunday, May 2, 2027, in conjunction with the 2027 UPMC Health Plan Pittsburgh Half Marathon throughout the streets of Pittsburgh. Grant amount - $30,000.

PITTSBURGH PHYSIQUE PROMOTIONS, INC. (PITTSBURGH POWER AND FITNESS FESTIVAL)
A two-day, 20-event amateur men's and women's fitness festival attracting 1,500 athletes from around the world taking place Saturday, May 15, 2027, through Sunday, May 16, 2027, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.
Grant amount - $75,000.

USA NATIONAL KARATE DO FEDERATION (2027 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS & TEAM TRIALS)
A four-day national karate championship tournament featuring athletes from across the United States participating in six division types taking place Wednesday, July 7, 2027, through Sunday, July 11, 2027, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - $75,000.

GRAN FONDO NEW YORK (GFNY PITTSBURGH MONROEVILLE 2027)
An international cycling marathon for ages 14 to 75 featuring a recreational 41-mile distance and a competitive 70-mile distance taking place Friday, September 17, 2027, through Sunday, September 19, 2027, at the CCAC Boyce Campus Parking Lot. Grant amount - $50,000.

The next round of SEG applications will be open December 15, 2026, through January 15, 2027. Program guidelines and submission information are information available on the SEG website: https://sportseventgrants.com/.

ABOUT THE SPORTS EVENT GRANTS PROGRAM
Funding for the SEG Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund. Since its inception, the SEG Program has awarded approximately $5.47 million across 123 grants to 47 different organizations. These grants have supported events showcasing over 27 different sports. The funded events have generated an estimated $475 million in economic impact within Allegheny County, estimated by SportsPITTSBURGH.

For all inquiries regarding the SEG Program, please contact info@sportseventgrants.com.

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About the SEA Sports Commission

The SEA established the SEA Sports Commission for the purpose of assisting the region in maintaining and growing its competitive position in the sports event market. The SEA Sports Commission, a five-member board, evaluates the financial, business, and public impact of proposals for Sports Event Grants and provides recommendations for funding to the SEA Board. For more information about the SEA Sports Commission, please visit: https://sportseventgrants.com/about-us/.

About the SEA

As a joint authority for the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, the SEA provides venues for sporting, entertainment, educational, cultural, civic, and social events to improve the quality of public life. The SEA owns and leases Acrisure Stadium, PNC Park, and PPG Paints Arena, and owns and operates the David L, Lawrence Convention Center. The SEA also owns parking lots and facilities, public parks, development parcels located in the Lower Hill District, and various associated infrastructure improvements. The SEA consists of a seven-member board, three of whom are appointed by the City and three by the County. The seventh member is appointed by the City and County jointly.

For more information about the SEA, please visit: http://www.pgh-sea.com/.