

# Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Grow the Game Grant

## Application Process 2026

**Introduction:** Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer is thrilled to announce the “World Cup Grow the Game Fund” for 2026! Inspired by the global excitement of the FIFA World Cup, this initiative aims to bring that same energy and inclusivity to our local soccer community. In partnership with our esteemed sponsors, we seek to support projects that ignite passion for soccer, foster diversity, and create opportunities for everyone to experience the joy of the game.

**Objectives:** The World Cup Grow the Game Fund champions these key objectives:

- **Inclusivity:** Just as the World Cup unites nations, we encourage programs that welcome players of all backgrounds, abilities, and ages.
- **Belonging:** Build a soccer culture where every participant feels like part of the team mirroring the unity seen on the world stage.
- **Participation:** Increase engagement by supporting initiatives that attract and retain players, coaches, referees, and volunteers, especially those facing barriers to entry.

### Grant Cycle

January 1, 2026 - Application open

January 31, 2026 - Application deadline

February 2026 - Awards announced at AGM

You will need the following information in order to move forward with your Grow the Game Grant application. Please review carefully before beginning or submitting your application.

**\*Incomplete grant applications will not be processed**

### Step 1: Grant Cover Sheet Questions

- Organization Name & Organization President
- Is your club/organization a current member of Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer?
- Our club/organization received a grant from Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer in the last (3) years?
- Number of children served by your organization in the 2024-25 season.
- Percentage of children served by your organization on free and reduced lunch.
- Levels of play this grant will affect.
  - o Intramural – in house program
  - o Recreational
  - o TOPSoccer

- Travel
- Grant proposal overview
  - Coaching Education
  - Referee Education
  - Increasing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
  - Program development (increasing enrollment in a current program)
  - World Cup Themed Festival
  - Other
- Number of additional children that will be served by your organization in 2026-27 because of this grant?
- Primary Contact for Applicant
  - Name
  - Address
  - Phone number
  - Email
  - Name of Grant Project/ Program
  - Total dollar amount requested
  - Brief summary of the project (Less than 100 words)

### **Step 2: Grant Application**

- Please provide a written narrative describing the program or activity for which you are seeking funds. (Full written narrative explaining how the program will work and what is the plan to keep the program running after money from the grant is gone.)
- Budget Proposal (showing what the money will be spent on. Please include full program budget)
- Please provide details on any portion of requested funding to be matched by the applicant or alternative sources of funding.
- List of names and primary affiliations of the organizations Board of Directors
- Organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN or "Tax ID")

### **Step 3: Letters of Recommendation (Optional)**

- Up to 3 Letters of Recommendation

Website Information:

### **Grant Focus Areas**

Proposed projects for the Grow the Game Fund 2026 should align with the following focus areas:

- Community Involvement: Initiatives that actively involve the local community in soccer-related activities, fostering a sense of shared ownership and pride.
- Accessibility: Programs that break down barriers to entry, making soccer accessible to individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those in underserved communities.
- Education and Training: Projects that provide educational opportunities and training for coaches, referees, and administrators, enhancing the overall quality of soccer programs.
- Innovative Programming: Creative and innovative programming that sparks interest and sustains long-term engagement in soccer.

### **Total Funding**

The total amount available for awards in 2026 is approximately \$75,000. This funding represents a collective effort with our partners, Nike, Kwikgoal and Soccer Post. The total funding available for the Grow the Game Fund 2026 is a testament to our commitment to support impactful projects in the Eastern Pennsylvania soccer community.