

## 2025-26 US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer Grant Program

TOPSoccer is a recreational sports program for children and adults with intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities offered only through local US Youth Soccer-affiliated soccer clubs. TOPSoccer provides people with diverse abilities an opportunity to play soccer in a structured environment that is safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive.

The TOPSoccer grant was authorized by the USYS Board of Directors to support the following goals:

- Increase player count at local programs and throughout state associations;
- Increase the number of local TOPSoccer programs;
- Support state association and local administrators with education, encouragement, mentoring;
- Ensure local programs have up-to-date equipment and current TOPS logo/branded items.

This year's program will be a reimbursement program like that in the 2024-25 seasonal year.

Here are the links to the grant application forms:

Local Programs:

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Gz\\_bmHRr\\_kqKeElXTDbsRWhIraiWsqNNk4Dc9w2iZUVUQUdTMFNWNk5FMVpNOThaQUg3RU1ES0s2RS4u](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Gz_bmHRr_kqKeElXTDbsRWhIraiWsqNNk4Dc9w2iZUVUQUdTMFNWNk5FMVpNOThaQUg3RU1ES0s2RS4u)

State Associations:

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Gz\\_bmHRr\\_kqKeElXTDbsRWhIraiWsqNNk4Dc9w2iZUVUNzJGR0dXRUYwNIZRWjM3NEdDTzJTSU5OQy4u](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Gz_bmHRr_kqKeElXTDbsRWhIraiWsqNNk4Dc9w2iZUVUNzJGR0dXRUYwNIZRWjM3NEdDTzJTSU5OQy4u)

All applications for the current program must be submitted by Wednesday, October 1 at 11:59 pm EDT. Organizations will be notified by Thursday, October 16 if they are awarded funds.

### Process for Receiving Funds:

1. Organization submits application for a grant for a specific use, within program guidelines
2. Application is reviewed by TOPSoccer committee
  - a. Committee confirms Grant meets application guidelines
  - b. USYS confirms programs are in good standing with their state association (as appropriate), including:
    - i. Organization registers players with state association
    - ii. Organization registers volunteers with state association
3. Committee meets to review and approve applications, adjusting awards based on approved request totals and available Grant funding (total of \$100,000 budgeted amount)
4. Committee notifies applicants that their grant was approved, with any adjustments to award amount, and provides appropriate report form/template
5. Applicant spends the funds as specified in application (see \* below)
6. Applicant submits report and receipts to Committee for review and reimbursement (may take up to 30 days). Reimbursements may be submitted anytime after award but will held for processing until either November 30 or January 31. The deadline for all reimbursements is January 31.
  - a. Report will ask for player and volunteer numbers, number of sessions and receipts for all items that are purchased
  - b. All receipts must be dated after September 11, 2025

**\*Note:** Funds must be used for expenses listed in the grant application. Changes to requested expenses must be approved prior to use. Organizations that submit receipts for unapproved expenses will not be reimbursed. All change requests must be submitted to [drobinson@usyouthsoccer.org](mailto:drobinson@usyouthsoccer.org).

## 2025-26 US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer Grant Program

### **Acceptable Use of Funds for Local Programs:**

1. Equipment intended to be used for multiple seasons (small goals, specialty soccer balls, parachutes and other specialty equipment);
2. Promotional signage to be displayed at the field or used for local resource fairs (feather flags, a-frames, tents);
3. Expenses for program leaders to travel to state, regional, national educational events/workshops and training (Max Individual Travel Expense Award: \$500);
4. TOPSoccer specific marketing expense (materials for school resource fairs or community events);
5. Waiver for state's player registration fees if the state does not already waive.

Grant amounts for local programs are based on the number of registered TOPS players in the program:

- Less than 50 players – max \$500
- More than 50 players – max \$1,000
- New programs – max \$1,500

### **Acceptable Use of Funds for State Associations:**

1. Equipment packages for new and existing programs (states should leverage purchasing power and vendor relationships);
2. Player events/ festivals, etc. tied into competitions or with partner organizations (USL clubs, Special Olympics, UASA, etc.);
3. State-wide marketing events, resource fairs, festivals, and trade association meetings (such as OT/PT/Speech/Pediatrics/disability);
4. Expenses to host educational events/ workshops for sharing best practices, holding coaching courses – local and/or remote.

Grant amounts for state associations are based on the number of registered TOPS players in the state:

- Less than 200 players – max \$1,000
- More than 200 players – max \$1,500