

**New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Athletics for Persons with Disabilities
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Name of program: Athletics for Persons with Disabilities

Purpose of grant: The purpose of this grant program is to provide funds to statewide, non-profit athletic organizations serving athletes with disabilities to provide sports training and athletic competition.

Available funding: The Athletics grant is State funded as a line item in the annual State Budget. The proposed FY27 budget allocates \$330,000 for grants. Awards will be made once the FY27 State budget is adopted.

Eligible applicants: Non-profit agencies providing statewide sports training and/or athletic competition to athletes with disabilities.

Eligible program participants: Athletes with disabilities.

Eligible activities: Sports training and athletic competition.

Ineligible activities: Purchase of land, buildings, or vehicles.

Grant term: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Qualifications of applicants to be considered for funding under grant program:

Applicants must be able to provide athletic competition and sports training, throughout the state for athletes with disabilities. Applicants must be knowledgeable about and demonstrate the ability to work with athletes with disabilities.

Application Process: All applicants must complete and submit the following application forms in SAGE:

- Agency Information Update (if past due) and Agency Contacts
- Board of Directors list
- Program Descriptions
- Program Objectives
- Scope of Services
- Program Components
- Program Service Area
- Need(s) Assessment
- Agency Capacity
- Other Sources of Funding
- Certifications
- Program Implementation Schedule
- Budget

Threshold Requirements: All applications must meet the following threshold criteria:

- Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension must be provided
- Certification Regarding Lobbying must be provided
- A Resolution must be provided

Failure to meet any of these threshold requirements will result in disqualification.

Proposed Program Budget: No administrative funds will be provided with this grant. Only program expenses should be included in the application. Program budgets should be based on need.

Evaluation of Applications: Each application is reviewed and evaluated for content by the Office of Community Services. The Commissioner of the N.J. Department of Community Affairs will make funding decisions.

Application Rating Criteria: Each application will be scored on a 100-point scale.

- **Applicant Information: (maximum 15 points)**
 - The program provides services statewide.
 - The program provides quality athletic training and competition.
 - The applicant has the qualifications and experience necessary to provide proposed services.
 - Agency presents a feasible timeline for proposed programs.
- **Statement of Need: (maximum 15 points)**
 - The statement of need sufficiently describes the target population, and why services are needed.
- **Financial Management (maximum 20 points)**
 - The budget expenses are reasonable for the services being provided.
 - The budget does not include administrative expenses.
- **Program Design (maximum 30 points)**
 - The goals and objectives address the identified needs.
 - The goals and objectives are realistic and measurable.
 - The methodology allows for the accomplishment of the goals and objectives.
 - The outcomes (performance measurements) document results.
- **Level of services: (maximum of 20 points)**
 - The program provides athletic opportunities for the target population.
 - The agency provides a target goal of how many individuals they anticipate serving through programing.
 - The program is increasing capacity of the agency.
 - The program provides opportunities for community engagement.

Reporting requirements: Grant recipients are required to provide quarterly reports according to the following schedule:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
7/1/26 to 9/30/26	10/30/2026
10/1/26 to 12/31/26	1/30/2027
1/1/27 to 3/31/27	4/30/2027
4/1/27 to 6/30/27	7/30/2027

Performance outcomes: Under this grant program, DCA defines two types of grantees. Type A organizations serve over 15,000 individuals with disabilities, statewide. Type B organizations serve fewer than 100 individuals with disabilities, statewide. Program outcomes are as follows:

Type A organizations will:

- Provide sports training to a minimum of 15,000 people with disabilities.
- Provide athletic competition to a minimum of 15,000 people with disabilities.
- Provide a minimum of four (4) statewide competitions during the contract.
- Provide unified sports opportunities to people with disabilities.

Type B organizations will:

- Provide sports training to a minimum of 40 people with disabilities.
- Provide athletic competition to a minimum of 40 people with disabilities.
- Provide at least four (4) athletic competitions or athletic events for individuals with disabilities.
- Support athletes participating in national and/or international athletic competition.

Deadline for submission: Friday August 14, 2026. All Athletics for Persons with Disabilities applications **must be submitted electronically** via SAGE on or before **Friday, August 14, 2026**, to be considered for funding.

Date by which applicants shall be notified: After confirmation that these funds are included in the FY27 approved State budget, applications have been reviewed and funding recommendations have been approved.

