

MESI 2021 - 2022 CLUB LEARN TO SWIM & WATER SAFETY COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM

As part of our commitment to Keeping Athletes First and providing opportunities and resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming, the **MESI 2021 - 2022 CLUB LEARN TO SWIM & WATER SAFETY COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM** is established to provide aid to Maine swimming registered clubs in good standing who are in need of financial assistance to facilitate a Learn to Swim program or Community Outreach event(s). MESI clubs may apply for funding for the following categories:

LEVEL 1 | Learn to Swim programming

LEVEL 2 | Community Outreach events (i.e. Water Safety Days)

TIERS | Total aid disbursed will not exceed \$8,000 for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year ending August 31, 2022.

Funding will be broken down into the following tiers:

TIER 1 | Partially or completely offset the cost for families who participate in the Learn to Swim program and/or Community Outreach event(s)

TIER 2 | Partially or completely offset the cost of training and/or certifying Learn to Swim Instructors

TIER 3 | Partially or completely offset the cost of pool rentals and associated fees for Learn to Swim program and/or Community Outreach event(s)

ELIGIBILITY | In order to be eligible to apply for this financial assistance, clubs must:

- Be currently registered and in good standing with MESI;
- Provide a detailed plan (budget, schedule, curriculum, etc.)
- Show proof of application for any and all local, state, and federal assistance including, but not limited to, USA Swimming Foundation, Make A Splash, Y-USA Swim Lesson grants, etc. if eligible;
- Disclose the amount and type of any and all funds received through local, state, and federal assistance including, but not limited to, USA Swimming Foundation, Make A Splash, Y-USA Swim Lesson grants, and any other grant/loan opportunities;
- Provide a comprehensive viability plan, including an amended budget reflecting the use of received and/or expected grants and other available resources.

APPLICATIONS | Application for financial assistance must be made on the form designated for this purpose.

APPLICATION REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS | Requests will be considered individually with strongest consideration given to those requests that demonstrate the greatest financial need as determined by the Finance Committee. In evaluating applications, the Finance Committee will consider the following:

- If clubs have achieved Safe Sport Club Recognition status;
- If clubs have achieved USA Swimming Club Recognition status;
- If clubs have provided a detailed plan (budget, schedule, curriculum, etc.);
- If clubs have certified instructor(s)/will be certifying instructors;
- If clubs are providing these opportunities to communities with a demonstrated and ongoing need; and
- If clubs have received outside funds and/or have identified opportunities and initiated plans to secure additional funds through local, state, and federal assistance.

TIMELINE

ROUND 1 | The first round of applications must be received by no later than November 1, 2021.

Aid determinations for Round 1 will be completed by the Finance Committee by November 7, 2021.

Round 1 disbursements are expected to be distributed by November 14, 2021.

ROUND 2 | If funds are still available after the first round of disbursements have been made, there will be a

second round of applications for those clubs who wish to apply for support. These applications must be received by no later than February 28, 2022 and will be evaluated on a first-come first-served basis in conjunction with the Application Review Considerations listed above. Aid determinations for Round 2 will be completed by the Finance Committee no later than March 6, 2022.

Second round disbursements will be distributed prior to March 13, 2022.

ROUND 3 | If funds are still available after the first two rounds of disbursements have been made, there will be a final round of applications for those clubs who wish to apply for support. These applications must be received by no later than June 27, 2021 and will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis in conjunction with the Application Review Considerations listed above.

Aid determinations for the final round will be completed by the Finance Committee no later than July 10, 2021.

The final round disbursements will be distributed prior to the end of the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Total Round 1 aid will not exceed \$1,000 per club.
- Regardless of aid received in prior rounds of applications, all clubs may still apply for future aid should it be available.
- Applications shall be reviewed by the Grant Application Review Task Force. The Grant Application Review Task Force shall make recommendations for aid disbursement to the Finance Committee for approval.
- Appeal of the decision may be made to the Finance Committee immediately upon notification. Applicants may be required to provide additional information in a timely manner to support their appeal. Following an appeal and its consideration, the decision of the Finance Committee shall be final.
- Prior to disbursing any Club Learn To Swim & Water Safety Community Outreach Grant aid, the club will be required to sign a Letter of Agreement acknowledging the following:
 - The awarded funds will be used for the specific purpose(s) stated in the final application as submitted;
 - The measurables and deliverables required in return for grant funding;
 - The deadline for when funds must be used; and
 - All reporting requirements that must be submitted within 30 days of the end of the Learn to Swim program or last Community Outreach Event.
- Disbursement of funds will be made by the MESI Treasurer under the direction of the MESI Finance Vice-Chair after approval by the MESI Board of Directors.