



Virginia Swimming Learn-to-Swim Grant Program

Virginia Swimming Incorporated (VSI) will invest in grants for learn-to-swim and water safety programs geared towards young people who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate in such programs. Members of USA Swimming Swim Lessons Provider Networks and VSI swim teams are eligible to apply for grant funding on an annual basis.

Program Goals

The mission of Virginia Swimming's Learn-to-Swim program is to raise awareness of the need and to provide the motivation, systems, and tools to waterproof our community so that all children have basic swimming skills and are safe around the water. Virginia Swimming solicits grants from USA Swimming Swim Lessons Providers and USA Swimming registered VSI swim teams that further this mission and establish "bridge programs" to transition children into competitive USA Swimming programs. Grants range from \$500 - \$3000 and 100% of the funds must be used to support training of Water Safety Instructors, lifeguards, pool time, and/or transportation. Virginia Swimming does not discriminate in offering access to its services or funds on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, or sexual orientation.

Virginia Swimming seeks innovative proposals that further its mission. Proposals with alternative and creative sources of funding as well as matching grants are looked upon favorably. Virginia Swimming hopes that swimmers will be able to swim 15 yards on their front and back and achieve proficiency through American Red Cross Level 3 skills by the completion of the program. Please direct any questions about this grant program to businessoffice@virginiasswimming.org.

Grant Submission Process and Requirements

Step 1: Letter of Interest

Letters of Interest (LOI) are submitted electronically through the link found below and are initially reviewed by the Finance Committee members. If the program meets the grant requirements, a full proposal will be requested. The deadline for submitting an LOI is June 1st.

[Letter of Interest Submission Link](#)

The narrative section of the LOI must include:

- The goals and objectives for the proposed project or program and services.
- Plans for measuring when and if the project or program has succeeded.
- Is your program scalable? (i.e., how does your program provide a programmatic proof of concept that can be transferred to other locations within Virginia.)



LOIs will be reviewed quickly and all applicants will receive notification of status no later than June 10th.

Step 2: Full Application

Full application is due **no later than July 1** and should include:

- A proposal narrative of no more than three pages that includes:
 - A clear description of the project or program
 - Information as to how it will be supported in the future
 - The ways in which the project's success will be defined and measured
 - The qualifications of the project personnelIf applicable, the narrative should also address any questions from the Finance Committee in response to the LOI.
- If organizing a learn-to-swim or water safety program, the application should also include:
 - The number of swimmers to be trained.
 - A brief description of the organization's history, objectives, current programs, and the geographic area and demographic groups it serves.
 - Program start and end dates as well as schedule
 - Cost per swimmer
 - Number and frequency of lessons
 - Basic lesson format (Red Cross, YMCA, etc.)
 - USA Swimming *Make a Splash* status
 - Detailed project budget
 - List of names of program managers and staff
 - A plan to bridge learn-to-swim participants with USA and Virginia Swimming

We are looking for creative methods of funding your project as well as alternative forms of funding and programs.

Full applications should be emailed to businessoffice@virginiawimming.org

Step 3: Notification

Following a careful review and possible site visits, the Finance Committee will submit the proposal to the Board of Directors for final approval. Notification of grant status will occur no later than July 15.

Step 4: Reporting

After receipt of the grant, Virginia Swimming expects to receive regular updates regarding the completion of your project. As a part of this reporting, you must submit a brief pre-program report, mid-program report, and post-program report. These reports must be submitted to businessoffice@virginiawimming.org by the following deadlines:

1. Pre-program report – due one week before program begins and must include
 - a. Scheduled start date and times
 - b. Number of individuals enrolled
 - c. Number of scholarship individuals enrolled
 - d. Number of instructors hired/volunteering



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- e. Deviations from initial grant proposal
2. Mid-program report – due at the midpoint of the program and must include
 - a. How many individuals have been successfully trained (i.e., can now swim 15 yards on their front and back)?
 - b. What progress have you made?
 - c. What problems have you encountered?
 - d. Are remedial lessons necessary for swimmers who have not reached the standard?
 - e. Deviations from initial grant proposal
3. Post-program report – due within one week of completion of the program and must include
 - a. Analysis of goals of initial grant
 - i. Were all goals met?
 - ii. What goals, if any, were not met?
 - iii. What can be done in the future to address any setbacks or challenges?
 - b. What did you accomplish?
 - c. How could this be done more efficiently in the future?