



2010 Program Overview

Definition:

The Summer Youth Program Fund (SYPF) is a collaborative grantmaking effort among local funders who support, or are interested in supporting, agencies that provide summer programming for Maricopa County youth. The purpose of the SYPF is to supplement existing programs in order to enrich, enhance and expand summer programs for children and youth.

The SYPF provides grants to organizations that match its guidelines and the criteria of individual funders participating in the collaboration. Collaborators include the *Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Republic Charities, BHHS Legacy Foundation, The Bidstrup Foundation, Helios Foundation, J.W. Kieckhefer Foundation, Margaret T. Morris Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Peoria Diamond Club, Phoenix Suns Charities, The Steele Foundation, Thunderbirds Charities, and The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust*. The *Lodestar Foundation* and *Maricopa Council on Youth Sports and Physical Activity* provide administrative support to the collaborative.

Why it is important:

The SYPF recognizes that summer programs, particularly those serving economically disadvantaged youth, require financial assistance to provide creative, educational and recreational outlets while fostering personal development and life-long learning.

During out of school time, young people tend to engage in the highest levels of health-harming behaviors. Targeted programs provide a continuum of care during the summer months and offer opportunities for youth to develop and sustain enriching and healthy lifestyle activities that will divert them from negative behaviors.

Benefits:

The collaborative program simplifies grant seeking for nonprofit organizations. The program design makes grantmaking more efficient for local nonprofits to obtain the necessary funds for their summer programs by using a single application form, one collective process and a single report. Recognizing that many local nonprofits have limited personnel, the SYPF collaborative effort allows staff to focus on youth programs by eliminating the duplication of efforts in applying separately to each funder.

Additionally, it allows a large number of funders to become more familiar with organizations providing summer youth programming and share in the efficiency of grantmaking through a collaborative and pooled funding process.

What is a typical grant award?

In 2007, the first year of the SYPF, 9 funders contributed \$365,000 to 26 organizations. In 2009, the SYPF awarded \$530,000 in grants ranging from \$7,500 to \$25,000 to 38 organizations serving nearly 80,000 youth.

What types of programs may the SYPF support?

SYPF gives priority to programs that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Serves disadvantaged youth from neighborhoods with limited access to organized activities.
- Serves youth with disabilities or special health needs.
- Exhibits a stable history of community support, outreach and partnerships.
- Provides age-appropriate activities and education components.
- Identifies areas for program improvement and methods to increase positive impact for participants.
- Establishes realistic outcomes for program participants.
- Creates innovative methods to reach youth and instill healthy lifestyle behaviors.
- Promotes collaboration.