



REQUEST FOR BEST VALUE APPLICATIONS (RFA) #852P027

RFA INSTRUCTIONS

Title: Pathways to Play Grants

Issuing Agency: Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY)

VFHY is excited to launch its first ever Pathways to Play Grants to expand access to physical activity for rural youth in 76 localities across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process. VFHY will administer two categories of funding:

- **Play Space Activation Grants** (up to \$100,000) to support the improvement and enhancement of play spaces. These are one-time grants and are not eligible for renewal.
- **Active Programming Grants** (up to \$50,000) to support the implementation of regular and structured physical activity programming that gets youth moving. Grants may be renewed at the sole discretion of VFHY for up to four additional funding periods.

Applicants may apply for one category or the other, but not both.

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Pathways to Play is part of Virginia's Rural Health Transformation Program initiative, Live Well Together, and the Active Kids sub-initiative.

Issuing Agency/Organization:	Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth
Program Name:	Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): Active Kids (Also known as Pathways to Play).
CFDA / Assistance Listing:	93.798 - Rural Health Transformation Program
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN):	RHTCMS332088
Federal Award Date:	December 29, 2025
Awarding Agency:	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Office of Acquisitions and Grants Management
Statutory Authority:	Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21
Primary Recipient:	Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services ([DMAS]); 600 E Broad St, Suite 1300, Richmond, VA 23219-1856
Federal Funds Expiration Date:	October 30, 2030
RFA Reference Number:	RFA-RHTP-852P027
Initiative:	Live Well Together
Sub-initiative:	Active Kids (AKA Pathways to Play)
RFA Issue Date:	9/24/2026
Application Deadline:	October 28, 2026 5:00 PM ET
Decision Timeline:	The initial round of awards will be announced by December 1, 2026. Some awards may be announced later.
Submission Method:	Applications must be submitted via VFHY's online Grants Portal only. No hard copy applications will be accepted. Online applications are due and must be uploaded by 5:00 pm ET on October 28, 2026. To be considered, applications must be submitted on or before the date and hour stipulated. Applications uploaded after the date and hour designated are automatically disqualified and will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit online applications prior to the deadline to avoid any delays due to busy servers or other internet failures. No late applications will be accepted, under any circumstances, regardless of the reason(s). VFHY is not responsible if the application is not submitted by the appointed time. The official time used in the receipt of responses is the electronic time stamp recorded by the server's clock.

File Format and Naming Convention Requirements:	The Pathways to Play Budget Form must be submitted in Microsoft Excel format. Unless otherwise specified, all other attachments must be combined and submitted as a single PDF in the applicable upload field. File names should follow this format: Organization Name_Document Name. Do not use special characters in file names. Only one file may be uploaded in each field.
Estimated Award Range:	VFHY anticipates awarding up to \$1,123,944 for this RFA. Organizations may be awarded: • Up to \$100,000 for Play Space Activation Grants • Up to \$50,000 per year for Active Programming Grants
Subaward Period of Performance:	Contract Start Date through July 15, 2027.
Geographic Scope:	Youth served must reside in one or more of the 76 Virginia localities detailed in this document. (See Section 2.4 Geographic Scope)
Q&A:	Please submit written questions using this FAQ Submission Form . Answers will be published on the Pathways to Play Grants page on the VFHY website each Friday. All questions must be submitted in writing during the Q&A period.
VFHY Contacts:	Applicants may contact VFHY staff directly for technical assistance with the Online Grant Portal or Budget Form. • VFHY Central Region, Terri-ann Brown, tabrown@vfhy.org • VFHY North Region, Lisa Brown, lbrown@vfhy.org • VFHY Southeast Region, Judith Sparrow, jsparrow@vfhy.org • VFHY Southwest Region, Jenny Martin, jmartin@vfhy.org Questions requiring interpretation or clarification of the RFA must be submitted through the FAQ Submission Form. Any other questions may be directed to: • Michael Parsons, Director of Programs, mparsons@vfhy.org

PART I: PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.1 Pathways to Play Program Context

Virginia is home to more than 1.5 million rural residents spanning the Southwest, Southside, Roanoke/Alleghany, Northern Piedmont, Shenandoah, and Eastern Shore & Northern Neck regions. Youth in rural communities face persistent access barriers, high chronic disease burden including childhood obesity, healthcare workforce shortages, behavioral health gaps, and financially fragile rural hospitals and clinics.

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) was established under Section 71401 of Public Law 119-21 and is administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The RHTP provides funding over five budget periods to States for investments that structurally transform healthcare delivery in rural communities. CMS awarded the Commonwealth of Virginia a Cooperative Agreement designating the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services ("DMAS") as the primary recipient. DMAS administers RHTP funds and issues grantee awards to qualified organizations to implement approved program initiatives. The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) is a subrecipient of DMAS and will be carrying out the Active Kids/Pathways to Play Program.

VFHY, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, awards funding through grants to local organizations to prevent and reduce childhood obesity throughout Virginia in keeping with its legislatively created public purpose noted in the Code of Virginia § 32.1-355.

1.2 Program & RFA Purpose

This Request for Applications (RFA) is a solicitation for services related to Active Kids as part of the Live Well Together initiative, which seeks to address the core challenge of expanding access to physical activity for rural youth.

1.3 Program Objectives for this RFA

The purpose of this funding is to expand access to physical activity for rural youth in support of the broader objective of decreasing rates of chronic disease in rural adults and children. Active Kids/Pathways to Play directly supports chronic disease prevention and management by promoting regular physical activity.

Objective	Description	Measurable Outcome	CMS Strategic Goal Alignment
1	Improve, upgrade, or repurpose existing spaces to expand safe and accessible opportunities for rural youth to be physically active.	Number of play spaces improved. (Play Space Activation Grants).	Make Rural America Healthy Again
2	Launch or expand structured, recurring opportunities for rural youth to participate in regular physical activity.	Number of regular physical activity programs launched or expanded. (Active Programming Grants).	Make Rural America Healthy Again

1.4 Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for an award under this RFA, applicants must meet the following **three** requirements:

Organization: Be a legally organized entity in good standing, registered to do business in Virginia, and capable of receiving federal subaward funding. Examples include nonprofit organizations, Tribal entities, schools or school divisions, and government agencies. For-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

Compliance: Organizations interested in funding must comply with the federal statutes, regulations, or terms and conditions of the federal award made to the Commonwealth of Virginia. **Organizations must have a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) before VFHY can enter into a contract.** Applicants do not need to have this in place when they apply, but we strongly recommend starting the process early. Organizations with an active exclusion in SAM.gov, such as debarment or suspension, are not eligible for funding.

Population: The grant-funded project must serve youth residing in one or more of the 76 localities listed in Section 2.4.

1.5 Available Funding & Award Structure

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) anticipates making at least 15 awards through this RFA. A total of up to \$1,123,944 is available for this funding cycle. Awards are for the period stated in this RFA and are not automatically renewable.

Individual awards for Play Space Activation Grants will not exceed \$100,000. Play Space Activation Grants are one-time projects and cannot be renewed, although organizations may apply for new projects when another RFA is released. Individual awards for Active Programming Grants will not exceed \$50,000.

Active Programming grants may be renewed at the sole discretion of VFHY for up to four additional funding periods. Receipt of an award does not create an entitlement to additional or future funding. Any future funding will depend on the availability of funds, satisfactory performance, and any additional application or competitive process required by VFHY.

Regardless of award amount, the following conditions apply to all awards under this RFA:

- Administrative costs such as general organization leadership and administrative support, and indirect costs such as office expenses or organization-wide accounting may not be funded in this grant. Please submit questions to the FAQ if clarification is needed.
- No cost sharing or matching is required. Please do not include any voluntary matching funds, leveraged resources, or donated in-kind services anywhere in your application, project narrative, or budget proposal.
- Active Programming Grantees must demonstrate satisfactory performance to be eligible for renewal funding in each subsequent budget period.
- Pre-award costs are not allowable. In other words, we cannot reimburse grantees for any work that takes place or goods that are purchased prior to the start of a contract.

PART II: REQUIRED SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 Scope of Work Overview

Pathways to Play is part of Virginia's Live Well Together / Active Kids sub-initiative and supports CMS's Make Rural America Healthy Again strategic goal.

Grantees funded under this RFA will implement one of two types of projects.

- **Play Space Activation Grants** will fund one-time projects that increase access to safe, engaging places for youth to be physically active. Grants may support minor upgrades or repurposing existing spaces such as schools, recreation centers, parks, and other community facilities. Projects will need to result in new or expanded access to physical activity spaces. Expanded access may include making an existing play space safer, more usable, or more accessible for youth. A project does not necessarily need to increase the number of youth using the space if it meaningfully improves their ability to use the space safely and regularly.

All projects must prioritize need, track participation and frequency of engagement, and include a plan for sustaining activities beyond the grant period (such as absorbing maintenance costs into the organization's operating budget). Grantees that complete their projects cannot request funding for the *same* project in a future RFA cycle.

- **Active Programming Grants** will fund structured, recurring opportunities for youth to engage in regular physical activity. Grants may support movement-based classes such as martial arts, dance, or yoga, outdoor adventure, sports, sports leagues, sports and recreation equipment, funding for instructors, fitness education, and targeted outreach to increase participation. All projects must prioritize need, provide or support consistent programming, track participation and frequency of engagement, and include a plan for sustaining programming beyond the grant period. Grantees that complete their projects may apply for Active Programming Grants in subsequent years.

2.2 Required Activities

All funded activities must serve youth residing in eligible rural Virginia localities and must align with the approved scope, milestones, outcomes, and allowable uses of Rural Health Transformation Program funding.

Play Space Activation Grants

Play Space Activation Grants will fund one-time projects that increase access to safe, engaging places for rural youth to be physically active. Grants may support minor upgrades or the repurposing of existing spaces such as schools, play spaces, recreation centers, parks, and other community facilities.

Funded projects must:

- Result in new or expanded access to physical activity spaces, including by making an existing space safer, more usable, or more accessible for youth.
- Prioritize demonstrated need.
- Track youth participation and frequency of engagement.
- Include a plan for maintaining the space beyond the grant period.
- Obtain all required permissions, approvals, permits, and inspections.
- Complete the approved project by July 15, 2027.

For a detailed list of allowable and unallowable costs, refer to the list at the end of this document, labeled, “Play Space Activation Grants: Allowable and Unallowable Costs.”

Required final deliverables will include a final report, final invoice, proof of project completion, and supporting documentation requested by VFHY. A project will be considered complete when the approved work is finished, the space is available for its intended use, and VFHY has approved the required programmatic and financial documentation.

Active Programming Grants

Active Programming Grants will fund structured, recurring opportunities for rural youth to engage in regular physical activity. Grants may support movement-based classes such as martial arts, dance, or yoga, outdoor adventure, sports, sports leagues, sports and recreation equipment, funding for instructors, fitness education, and targeted outreach to increase participation.

Funded programs must:

- Provide or support consistent physical activity programming.
- Prioritize demonstrated need.
- Track youth participation and frequency of engagement.
- Include a plan for sustaining programming beyond the grant period.
- Complete the approved program by July 15, 2027.

Required final deliverables will include a final report, final invoice, participation information, and supporting documentation requested by VFHY. A program will be considered complete when the approved activities have been delivered, and VFHY has approved the required programmatic and financial documentation.

2.2A (The Project)

After signing the contract, grantees must complete their projects within the contract period.

Required activities:

- Each grantee is required to submit to VFHY regular reports detailing grant project status in relationship to expected outcomes, program activities, and accomplishment of outcome performance measures. The VFHY reports are completed online through the VFHY Grants Portal.
- VFHY monitors grant projects through a variety of mechanisms including staff review of reporting forms, invoice/reimbursement forms, site visits, and program/project visits. A Regional Grants Administrator assigned to the grant will provide follow-up and monitoring activities with the grantee to review progress. Project Monitoring is an opportunity for grantees to inform VFHY staff of accomplishments as well as to let them know if any barriers to project completion exist. Grantees should contact their assigned Regional Grants Administrator when they experience any difficulties in the implementation of their grant programs/projects and should not wait until contacted by staff for general monitoring activities.
- A Play Space Activation Grant is complete when the Play Space is repaired, upgraded, etc. as described in the application. An Active Programming Grant is complete when the program has been established and has served youth as described in the application.
- Grantee invoice/reimbursements will be subject to invoice verification as directed by VFHY staff. Grantees are required to maintain all receipts for expenditures but do not need to provide them with ongoing monthly invoice/reimbursement requests. However, VFHY may request receipts throughout the grant period.

2.2B (Completion)

All final reports must be submitted by their corresponding deadlines.

- Final Financial Report - The final invoice/reimbursement must be submitted to VFHY no later than August 1, 2027.
- Final Report - The Final Report includes questions about the grant project/program over the course of the entire period. This report is completed online utilizing the VFHY Grants Portal. The final report must be submitted to VFHY no later than August 1, 2027.

2.3 Required Partnerships and Coordination

If an applicant has collaborating partners, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for each partner listed in the application must be included. These must be MOAs, not letters of support.

Each MOA must be dated and must clearly describe the commitments of each partner for the full grant period. Documents with original signatures or a verified digital signature (e.g. DocuSign, Adobe) are acceptable. Signatures that are computer-generated without digital verification are not acceptable.

School-based projects must also include written approval from the school principal(s) and an appropriate official from the school division central office, such as a Director of Operations, Director of Secondary Education, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent, etc. This approval may be provided through separate letters or a co-signed document.

Only one file can be uploaded in this field in the VFHY Grants Portal, so applicants should combine all MOAs and required approvals into a single file before uploading. If the project has no partners or collaborating agencies, MOAs are not required. In that case, provide a brief statement confirming that no partners are involved.

2.4 Geographic Scope

Applicants must propose projects that serve youth residing in one or more of the 76 eligible rural localities listed in this RFA. Applicants are not required to serve all 76 localities and may propose a project serving a single locality or a subset of eligible localities. The localities selected in the application must reflect where participating or benefiting youth reside, not necessarily the location of the applicant's administrative office.

We have presented the 76 localities in two different formats (pages 13–14). The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) regions indicate which of the four Regional Grants Administrators applicants should communicate with. The Rural Health Transformation (RHT) regions indicate which RHT region each locality falls within.

Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) Regions

Southwest	Central	North	Southeast
Alleghany County	Appomattox County	Caroline County	Accomack County
Bland County	Bath County	Clarke County	Amelia County
Buchanan County	Buckingham County	Culpeper County	Brunswick County
Carroll County	Buena Vista City	Fauquier County	Charles City County
Covington City	Cumberland County	King George County	Charlotte County
Craig County	Fluvanna County	Warren County	Emporia City
Danville City	Greene County		Essex County
Dickenson County	Highland County		Franklin City
Floyd County	Lexington City		Greensville County
Franklin County	Louisa County		Halifax County
Galax City	Madison County		King and Queen County
Giles County	Nelson County		King William County
Grayson County	Orange County		Lancaster County
Henry County	Page County		Lunenburg County
Lee County	Rappahannock County		Mathews County
Martinsville City	Rockbridge County		Mecklenburg County
Norton City	Shenandoah County		Middlesex County
Patrick County			New Kent County
Pittsylvania County			Northampton County
Pulaski County			Northumberland County
Radford City			Nottoway County
Russell County			Prince Edward County
Smyth County			Richmond County
Tazewell County			Southampton County
Wise County			Surry County
Wythe County			Sussex County
			Westmoreland County

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Regions

Eastern Shore & Northern Neck	Northern Piedmont	Roanoke/ Alleghany	Shenandoah Valley	Southside	Southwest
Accomack County	Culpeper County	Alleghany County	Bath County	Amelia County	Bland County
Caroline County	Fauquier County	Craig County	Clarke County	Brunswick County	Buchanan County
Charles City County	Fluvanna County	Floyd County	Highland County	Buckingham County	Carroll County
Essex County	Greene County	Franklin County	Page County	Charlotte County	Dickenson County
King and Queen County	Louisa County	Covington City	Rockbridge County	Cumberland County	Giles County
King George County	Madison County	Radford City	Shenandoah County	Greensville County	Grayson County
King William County	Nelson County		Warren County	Halifax County	Lee County
Lancaster County	Orange County		Buena Vista City	Henry County	Pulaski County
Mathews County	Rappahannock County		Lexington City	Lunenburg County	Russell County
Middlesex County				Mecklenburg County	Smyth County
New Kent County				Nottoway County	Tazewell County
Northampton County				Patrick County	Wise County
Northumberland County				Pittsylvania County	Wythe County
Richmond County				Prince Edward County	Galax City
Westmoreland County				Southampton County	Norton City
				Surry County	
				Sussex County	
				Danville City	
				Emporia City	
				Franklin City	
				Martinsville City	
				Appomattox County	

PART III: REQUIRED PERFORMANCE METRICS, MILESTONES, AND COMPLIANCE

3.1 Required Initiative-Specific Metrics

VFHY will track these metrics among all funded grantees so they can be compiled and reported.

#	Metric	Agency-Wide Target / Milestone	Reporting/Collection Methodology	Responsible Party
1	Incremental number of play spaces improved and regular physical activity programs launched or expanded for rural youth.	At least 100 play spaces improved and regular physical activity programs launched for rural youth across the six RHTP rural health regions by FFY 2030, and at least 15 in year one.	End of year grant reports.	Verified by Grants Administrator by August 1, 2027.
2	The number of youth impacted and frequency of engagement (VFHY-specific metric).	Project and program dependent.	Information will be collected through grant reports.	Verified by Grants Administrator by August 1, 2027.

3.1.1 People Served

For Play Space Activation Grants, people served refers to the unduplicated number of youth (under 18) who will utilize a grant-funded playspace over a given time period (typically reported annually). VFHY will track the number of youth who use grant-funded play spaces and benefit from the improvements. Youth may be counted as impacted even if they used the space before the grant, provided the project meaningfully improves the safety, accessibility, usability, or quality of their physical activity opportunity.

For Active Programming Grants, people served refers to the unduplicated number of youth (under 18) who will participate in a grant-funded regular program over a given time period (typically reported annually).

Grantees must use a reasonable and documented method for tracking or estimating youth served. Play Space Activation grantees may use documented participation or a reasonable estimation methodology appropriate to the site. Active Programming grantees should use enrollment, attendance, or similar participation records whenever possible.

Grantees must avoid counting the same youth more than once within the applicable reporting period and must maintain documentation describing the methodology used. Required grant reports will include People Served and applicable demographic and geographic information.

3.2 Required Program Milestones

All milestones will be incorporated into the executed grantee contract.

Milestone/ Phase	Milestone Type	Description/Required Activities	Required Deliverables/ Acceptance Criteria	Required By / Due Date
Complete Contract With VFHY	CMS Approved Milestone	Sign grant contract. Funded projects may commence. Grant monitoring activities begin.	Signed contract.	December 1, 2026 (Some contracts may begin later).
Pathways to Play Projects Conclude	CMS Approved Milestone	Play Spaces Completed or Active Programs Completed.	Verified through completed reports and other grant monitoring mechanisms.	By July 15, 2027.
Final Documentation Submitted	CMS Approved Milestone	Final invoice and Final report submitted to VFHY.	Final Invoice and Final Report.	By August 1, 2027.

3.3 Remedies for Noncompliance

If a grantee materially fails to comply with the federal statutes, regulations, or terms and conditions of the federal award, including the performance and reporting milestones set forth in this RFA and the executed grantee contract, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, after providing written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure where appropriate, may impose one or more of the following remedies in accordance with 2 CFR 200.339 and 2 CFR 200.340:

Remedies for noncompliance with federal rules and program requirements:

- Temporarily withholding cash payments pending correction of the deficiency;
- Disallowing all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance;
- Wholly or partly suspending or terminating the subaward;
- Initiating suspension or debarment proceedings under 2 CFR Part 180;
- Withholding further awards for the project or program;
- Requiring repayment of funds expended in violation of the terms and conditions;
- Other legally available remedies.

Remedies for noncompliance with performance and reporting timelines:

- Requiring submission of a corrective action plan within 30 days of written notice;
- Imposing heightened monitoring, including increased reporting frequency and site visits;
- Designating the grantee as "high risk" under 2 CFR 200.208, with associated specific conditions;
- Reducing future budget periods or declining to renew the subaward;
- Termination of the subaward for cause.

A grantee may contest any adverse action through the dispute process set forth in the executed grantee contract and applicable Code of Virginia provisions.

PART IV: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Required Application Components

Read the entire RFA Instructions and related information before completing an application. To complete the application, go to the VFHY [Online Grant Portal](#) directly or connect from the [Pathways to Play Grants page on the VFHY website](#). If your organization does not already have an account, you will be prompted to create a new one before you can start the application. In the Grants Portal, select **RFA #852P027 - Pathways to Play Grants (2027)**. Applicants must decide which of the two funding categories (Play Space Activation Grants or Active Programming Grants) they will pursue **before** beginning the application process.

Applicants must complete each required section of the online application and upload all required attachments. All questions must be answered to ensure a complete application.

Major Sections in VFHY's Online Grants Portal	Brief Description
PATHWAYS TO PLAY	Narrative Questions
PLAY SPACE ACTIVATION or ACTIVE PROGRAMMING	Narrative Questions & Uploaded Documentation
YOUTH SERVED	Narrative Questions
BUDGET	Narrative Questions & Uploaded Budget
KEY PERSONNEL, MOA, AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	Narrative Questions, Uploaded MOA & Signature

4.2 Project Approach Narrative

The following questions should be answered in full in the VFHY [Online Grant Portal](#).

PATHWAYS TO PLAY

Project Name

Select a name to distinguish your program. For example: Lewis County Playground Upgrade.

Region

Select the VFHY region in which your primary office is located. If your work spans multiple regions, select the region in which your primary office is located.

Project Summary

Briefly describe the proposed project, who it would benefit, and why it is important. This should be a short, polished description of your project.

Organization

Select the category that best describes your organization's legal and tax status.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Process

Does your organization currently have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)?

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Please enter your organization's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) if you have one.

Organizational History and Past Performance

Describe your organization's history and background. Briefly describe up to three comparable projects or programs from the past five years, including the project scope, funding source and amount, your organization's role, and key outcomes. Organizations without comparable project or program experience are still eligible to apply.

Statement of Need

Describe the need your project will address. Explain the barriers that limit opportunities for youth to be physically active and why this need is especially significant in your community. Include any local data, observations, or other evidence that supports the need.

Project

Explain why the proposed project is the best solution to address the need described above. Describe how it will increase or improve opportunities for youth to be physically active, who will benefit most, and why this project was selected over other possible approaches.

Adverse Action Disclosures

Applicants must disclose, within the past five years, any of the following:

- Terminations for default, convenience following non-performance, or non-renewal due to performance concerns on any federal- or state-funded award.
- Active or resolved suspensions or debarments under federal or state requirements.
- Material findings, questioned costs, or unresolved Single Audit findings.
- Adverse audit findings.

Financial Audit and Financial Documentation

Because Pathways to Play grants are federal subawards, VFHY is required to conduct a risk assessment of organizations selected for funding.

Has your organization completed a Federal Single Audit or other independent financial audit within the past three years? If yes, upload your most recent Federal Single Audit or audited financial statements. If no, upload your most recent organizational financial documents, such as:

- Balance sheet
- Income statement
- Statement of cash flows
- Current organizational budget

Not having a Federal Single Audit or independently audited financial statements does not make your organization ineligible for funding. VFHY reserves the right to request additional documentation during the application process or prior to making awards.

Audit Findings

Did your organization's most recent audit identify any material findings, questioned or disallowed costs, corrective actions, or unresolved findings? If yes, briefly explain.

PLAY SPACE ACTIVATION GRANTS

Applicants seeking a **Play Space Activation Grant** will answer the following additional questions.

Project Overview

Describe the proposed project, including the play space's current condition, the specific improvements or equipment to be funded, and how the completed project will increase or improve opportunities for youth to be physically active, including any improvements in safety, accessibility, or usability.

Project Site

Identify the project site, including:

- Physical address
- Locality
- Type of facility
- Entity that owns the property

Access

Explain who can access the space, when and how often it will be available for youth use, and whether there will be any restrictions on public or community use

Project Timeline

Describe the proposed timeline for completing the project. Identify major tasks, responsible parties, anticipated completion dates, and any circumstances that could delay completion.

Proof of Ownership

Upload documentation showing that your organization owns the project site or has permission from the property owner to complete the proposed improvements and use the site for the project's intended purpose.

Documentation must confirm that the proposed improvements are authorized and identify how long the site will remain available for youth use.

Property Access Certification

Certify that all proposed improvements are permissible under any lease, easement, or other agreement governing the property.

Project Start

How long after contract execution do you expect your project to begin?

Project Documentation

Upload recent photographs of the site along with a basic site plan, sketch, rendering, or equipment layout. Provide a narrative description of the photographs and plans.

Evaluation

Describe how you will track youth participation and project outcomes.

Sustainability

Describe how the play space will be operated and maintained after the grant ends. Include:

- Organization(s) responsible for maintenance, inspections, repairs, cleaning, security, and equipment replacement
- Expected annual maintenance and replacement costs
- Source of funding for those costs
- Anticipated period during which the space will remain available for youth use

Reimbursement Capacity

Grant expenses will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Your organization must be able to incur and pay approved project expenses before receiving reimbursement from VFHY. Please

describe how your organization will manage these upfront costs and maintain sufficient cash flow throughout the grant period.

Permits and Approvals

Does the project require any permits, inspections, property-owner, school board or local government approvals, or other authorization before work can begin?

Permits and Approvals Follow-Up

If yes or unsure, briefly describe:

- Approvals that may be required
- Approvals already obtained
- Who will be responsible for obtaining remaining approvals

Applicants may upload supporting documentation.

Project Approval Certification

Certify that you understand grant funding does not replace any required permit, inspection, procurement process, property-owner approval, or authorization from a local government, school system, or other governing body, and that work will not begin until all required approvals have been obtained.

ACTIVE PROGRAMMING GRANTS

Applicants seeking an **Active Programming Grant** will answer the following additional questions.

Program Overview

Describe the proposed program, including the activities that will be offered, the youth who will participate, and how the program will increase opportunities for regular physical activity.

Program Location(s)

Identify where programming will take place, including:

- Facility name
- Physical address
- Locality
- Organization that owns or operates the space

Program Schedule

Describe the proposed schedule, including:

- How often youth will participate
- Length of each session
- Total duration of the program

Program Timeline

Describe the proposed timeline for implementing the program between December 2026 and July 2027. Identify major activities, responsible parties, anticipated start and end dates, and any circumstances that could delay implementation.

Recruitment and Retention

Describe how youth will be recruited into the program and how you will encourage regular participation throughout the grant period.

Evaluation

Describe how you will track youth participation and project outcomes.

Sustainability

Describe how programming will continue after grant funding ends assuming you do not receive

renewal funding from VFHY. Include plans for future funding, partnerships, staffing, or incorporation of the program into ongoing operations.

YOUTH SERVED

Number of Youth: Baseline

Without this funding, how many unduplicated youth under age 18 do you estimate would use the play space or participate in the program between December 2026 and September 2027? This number may be zero.

Youth Impacted: Year 1

If funded, how many **unduplicated youth** will be impacted by this project between December 2026 and September 2027? For Play Space Activation Grants, include youth who already use the space if they will benefit from the grant-funded improvements to the safety, accessibility, usability, or quality of their physical activity opportunity.

Youth Demographics: Race

Estimate the percentage of youth impacted by the project by race.

Youth Demographics (Race/Ethnicity)

Estimate the percentage of youth who identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Youth Demographics: Poverty

Estimate the percentage of youth that you will serve who experience poverty (i.e. whose household income falls below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). See FPL Guidelines [here](#).

Basis for Youth Estimates

Briefly explain how you developed the youth counts and demographic estimates above. For example, identify any prior participation records, enrollment or attendance data, facility-use estimates, community or school data, program capacity, or other reasonable assumptions used.

Rural Localities

Select up to three eligible rural localities where the youth impacted by your project reside. If youth come from multiple localities, select the three localities where the largest number of participants reside.

Youth Population

Describe the population of youth who would be served by your program or project. Are they at elevated risk for obesity or other chronic diseases? If so, how?

Youth Impacted (Future)

Following the initial grant period, how many unduplicated youth do you estimate will be impacted by this project during the next full year (October 2027–September 2028)?

- **Play Space Activation:** Provide a good-faith estimate of how many youth will use the completed play space during that year.
- **Active Programming:** If VFHY renews your grant for an additional funding period, provide a good-faith estimate of how many unduplicated youth would participate in the program during that year.

BUDGET

Total Funding Requested

Provide the total amount you are requesting from VFHY.

Pathways to Play Budget

Complete and upload the Pathways to Play Budget Form. List the amount requested for each line item, provide detailed explanations, and show calculations for all funds requested.

If VFHY needs any other context to understand your budget, provide it here.

Supporting Cost Documentation

Upload any available quotes, estimates, online pricing, or other documentation that supports your major project costs.

- For Play Space Activation Grants, this may include contractor services or major equipment purchases.
- For Active Programming Grants, this may include facility rentals, instructors, coaches, consultants, or other significant contracted services.

Documentation is not required for routine supplies. Supporting documents should be current and, when applicable, dated within the last 6 months. You may apply without this documentation, but VFHY will consider the information available when reviewing whether proposed costs are reasonable.

If you receive a grant: The documentation submitted with your application does not replace the procurement process required for federal funds. A single quote, estimate, or online pricing may be used to support the proposed cost in your application. After award, in general:

- Purchases of \$15,000 or less do not require multiple quotes, although the price must be reasonable.
- Purchases over \$15,000 generally require quotes from more than one qualified vendor. The \$15,000 threshold applies to the total value of the same purchase or contract, not individual invoices or payments. A purchase or contract may not be divided into smaller transactions to avoid procurement requirements.

Other Federal Funding

Check this box if Pathways to Play funds will be combined with other federal grant funds for the same project. If checked, VFHY will work with you to determine whether additional procurement requirements apply.

Budget Certification

Certify that no pre-award costs, major construction costs, lobbying costs, or other prohibited expenditures are included in the budget.

KEY PERSONNEL, MOA, AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Key Personnel

Identify the key personnel who will lead and carry out the proposed work. For each person, provide their name, title, project role, whether they are full- or part-time, relevant qualifications or experience, and the approximate percentage of time or hours per month they will dedicate to the project.

At minimum, identify:

- A project manager responsible for the success of the project
- A finance manager responsible for tracking expenses, invoicing, and related financial responsibilities

Memorandum of Agreement

If the project includes collaborating partners, upload a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for each partner. Each MOA must describe the commitments of each partner for the full grant period. School-based projects must also include written approval from the school principal and

an appropriate school division central-office official. If the project has no partners or collaborating agencies, provide a brief statement confirming that no partners are involved. Only one file can be uploaded in this field in the Grants Portal, so applicants should combine all MOAs and required approvals into a single file before uploading.

Authorized Organizational Representative Certification

Enter the name of your organization's Authorized Representative below.

By signing, the Authorized Organizational Representative certifies that all information in this application is true, accurate, and complete; that the organization accepts the conditions of a Virginia RHTP subrecipient award; and that the organization will comply with 2 CFR Part 200 and all applicable federal and state requirements.

The Authorized Representative also certifies that they acknowledge receipt of any addenda issued. To be eligible for a grant award, the organization must also agree to:

- Complete all grant-funded work no later than July 15, 2027.
- Submit the Final Report and Final Invoice no later than August 1, 2027.

By signing below, the Authorized Representative confirms that they have reviewed and agree to these requirements.

4.3 Budget Requirements

Applicants must complete and upload the Pathways to Play Budget Form as a Microsoft Excel file. The budget must provide a detailed project budget and clearly show how each requested cost was calculated. All costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable to the proposed project, adequately documented, and consistent with this RFA. Applicants should provide sufficient detail, formulas, and calculations to explain how each amount was determined. For each budget line item, show how the amount was calculated, such as hourly rate × hours, cost per session × number of sessions, or unit cost × quantity. If you want to provide any additional context that we might need in order to better understand your budget, you may do so in the narrative text box, labeled Pathways to Play Budget, found in the Online Grants Portal where you upload your budget.

VFHY has prepared two sample budgets that you may review. These are available on the grants page of our website. You do not need to follow these budget examples exactly.

Applicants should complete all applicable Personnel & Fringe, Equipment, Supplies, and Contractual Subtabs. Before submitting the application, applicants should verify that all applicable subtabs are complete, calculations are accurate, and the Budget Summary reflects the total amount requested.

Subtabs

- **Instructions:** Provides instructions for use of the Budget Form.
- **Budget Summary:** Automatically calculates the total request based on the amounts entered in the individual budget subtabs.

- **Budget Guidance & Definitions:** Provides more detailed explanations of each budget category and related requirements.
- **Personnel & Fringe:** Identify the position, staff member if known, annual salary, and percentage of staff time dedicated to the project. For Play Space Activation Grants, VFHY would not typically expect more than 5% of a staff member's time to be charged to the project without clear justification. For Active Programming Grants, you may choose to hire a new staff member or expand the hours of an existing employee, for example from 20 hours per week to 40 hours per week. If hiring or expanding staff time, include those costs here. If you instead hire someone as a contractor, include those costs under Contractual. Fringe benefits must be based on the organization's established fringe rate and may not exceed 40%. For Play Space Activation Grants, any personnel request above 5% of a staff member's time must explain the project-specific duties that justify the higher level of effort.
- **Equipment:** List each equipment item separately and explain how it supports the proposed project. Include the purpose of the equipment, per-unit cost, number of units, and total cost. Only items with a per-unit cost of \$10,000 or more should be included as Equipment. If equipment is already included in a service contract, do not also list it here.
- **Supplies:** List all supplies needed to carry out the proposed project. Include a clear description of each item, per-unit cost, quantity, and total cost requested. Supplies are tangible items with a per-unit cost of less than \$10,000. Examples may include educational materials, sports equipment, materials for play space improvements, and other consumable or project-specific items that directly support the proposed project. Do not include costs that are more appropriately categorized as Equipment or Contractual. If supplies are already included in Contractual, do not also list them here.
- **Contractual:** List all contractor agreements, services, consultant agreements, and other contractual costs necessary to support the project. For each item, provide a description of the services to be performed. For Play Space Activation Grants, some or all of your project costs may be paid through contracts. For Active Programming Grants, you may choose to hire an instructor, coach, or other provider through a contract. If so, include those costs here. If you instead hire someone as an employee of your organization, include those costs under Personnel & Fringe. If a contractor's price includes equipment or materials that cannot reasonably be separated from the overall contract price, those costs may remain under Contractual. **Do not enter the same cost under more than one budget category.** For Play Space Activation Grants, clearly describe whether the proposed cost is for repair, replacement, upgrade, or other allowable improvement. Provide enough detail for VFHY to determine whether the proposed work is allowable.

Supplanting is not allowed, meaning grant funds may not replace funds already available to the organization for staff, equipment, materials, or other costs required to carry out an existing program or project. **Administrative costs, including indirect costs and general operating expenses, will not be funded.** No matching funds or cost sharing are required. Incentives are items provided to youth participants beyond the materials required to conduct the program and may not exceed \$25 per participant. Additionally, any incentive items may not contain branding

related to the organization or any affiliates and the incentives must only be provided for participating in a program. Incentive items may not be provided as general giveaways nor provided to any youth prior to their participation in the grant-funded program. Incentives must be appropriate and reasonable. Gift cards are not permitted.

4.4 Key Personnel & Staffing

In the application, applicants must identify the key personnel who will lead and carry out the proposed work.

4.5 Past Performance

In the application, applicants must identify comparable projects they have completed in the past.

Adverse Action Disclosures

In the application, applicants must disclose, within the past 5 years, any of a set list of adverse actions. Failure to disclose any of the actions will be grounds for rejection of the application or termination of any resulting subaward. Disclosure is not an automatic bar to award; it informs VFHY's risk evaluation under 2 CFR 200.206 and the imposition, if any, of specific award conditions under 2 CFR 200.208

PART V: REVIEW CRITERIA AND SCORING

5.1 Review Process

All applications will be reviewed by VFHY staff with input from subject matter experts. Best Value concepts will be used for the evaluation and award. Best Value means the overall combination of quality, price, and various elements of required services that in total are optimal relative to a public body's needs. Various elements may include location, target population, demonstrated need, high risk youth, health disparities, and type of program or project. VFHY will consider awards to other than the highest technically acceptable application.

Evaluation Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated using the following Best Value rating method:

- **Acceptable:** Applicant's application demonstrates a very good understanding of goals and objectives of the RFA. There may be strengths and weaknesses, however strengths outweigh the weaknesses.
- **Marginal:** Applicant's application demonstrates a fair understanding of the goals and objectives of the RFA. Weaknesses are present and may outweigh strengths that exist. Weaknesses can be corrected.

- **Unacceptable:** Applicant's application fails to demonstrate an understanding of the goals and objectives of the RFA and is generally deemed unresponsive to the RFA. The application has one or more significant weaknesses that outweigh the strengths. Weaknesses will be very difficult to correct or are not correctable.

Award Criteria:

Selection will be made of applicants deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting applications on the following:

- The ratings from the reviewers' evaluations
- The Best Value requirements
- The amount of funding available

Negotiations will be conducted with the Applicants so selected. After negotiations have been conducted with each Applicant so selected, the agency will award contracts to those Applicants. Price will be considered but need not be the sole determining factor.

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth may cancel this Request for Best Value Applications or reject applications at any time prior to an award and is not required to furnish a statement of the reason why a particular application was not deemed to be the most advantageous. (See Section, 2.2-4359 D of the *Code of Virginia*.) Awards are contingent on availability of funds through CMS/Virginia Rural Health Transformation Program and/or appropriations made by the General Assembly, and/or as approved by the VFHY Board of Trustees. Awards are contingent upon the availability of federal funds received from CMS, continued federal approval, and the grantee's satisfactory performance and compliance with applicable federal, state, DMAS, and VFHY requirements.

Conflict of Interest: Before reviewing any application, each reviewer must complete and sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure form identifying any financial, employment, familial, or organizational relationship with any applicant or its key personnel within the past 24 months. Any reviewer with a conflict will be recused from scoring or discussing the affected application. VFHY will document all disclosures and recusals as part of the official procurement file. Applicants who believe a conflict exists may submit a written request for review to the VFHY Director of Programs within five (5) business days of the application deadline.

PART VI: AWARD TERMS, REPORTING, AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Federal Regulatory Framework

All awards under this RFA are federal subawards. Grantees must comply with:

- 2 CFR Part 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance);
- Code of Virginia and applicable VFHY procurement policies;
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794);
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.);
- Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) where applicable;
- Anti-Lobbying Act and Byrd Amendment (31 U.S.C. 1352) for awards over \$100,000;
- Drug-Free Workplace Act;
- UEI requirements (2 CFR Part 25, Appendix A);
- Applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 300;
- HHS Grants Policy Statement;
- CMS Rural Health Transformation Program Terms and Conditions;
- The federal Notice of Award and applicable amendments;
- CMS guidance, amendments, and clarifications;
- The applicable upper-tier Subrecipient Agreement and special RHTP terms and conditions; and
- Any additional requirements imposed by DMAS or the issuing organization to satisfy federal award obligations.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

- Final Financial Report - The final invoice/reimbursement must be submitted as directed by VFHY no later than August 1, 2027.
- Ongoing reporting as determined by VFHY staff - These reports will be a key part of progress monitoring.
- Final Report - The Final Report includes additional questions about the grant program over the course of the entire period. This report is completed online utilizing the VFHY Grants Portal. The final report must be submitted as directed by VFHY no later than August 1, 2027.

Late, incomplete, or inaccurate reports may result in withholding of payments, corrective action, or termination of the award.

6.3 Grantee Monitoring

VFHY will conduct ongoing monitoring of all Grantees. Monitoring activities may include:

- Reviews of financial reports, progress reports, invoices, and supporting documentation;
- Site visits to assess program operations, records, and internal controls;
- Follow-up on financial reviews, corrective action plans, and identified compliance deficiencies as applicable.
- Risk assessments before award and annually thereafter to determine the appropriate level of monitoring.

Grantees must cooperate fully with all monitoring activities and provide requested documentation within timeframes specified by VFHY. Failure to cooperate constitutes non-compliance and may result in corrective action.

6.4 Stevens Amendment Acknowledgement Requirements

The Stevens Amendment (Section 507 of P.L. 104-208, as continued in subsequent appropriations acts) requires that any document, statement, press release, or other publication describing a project or program funded in whole or in part with RHTP funds clearly state both the dollar amount and the percentage of total program costs financed with federal money.

Grantees must include the following acknowledgement in any publications, including websites, reports, press releases, and presentations:

If the subaward is funded entirely with federal funds (no non-federal sources):

"This subaward [is/was] supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling (award amount) with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government."

If the subaward is partially funded with non-governmental sources:

"This subaward [is/was] supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling (XX) with [XX] percent funded by CMS/HHS and \$[XX amount] and [XX] percent funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CMS/HHS or the U.S. Government."

6.5 Invoicing Process and Documentation

Awards will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Grantees may submit invoice/reimbursement requests monthly to their Regional Grants Administrator using the approved budget categories of Personnel, Fringe, Equipment, Supplies, and Contractual. Requests must identify

expenditures by budget category and provide sufficient detail to show that costs are consistent with the approved grant budget. VFHY will process approved invoice/reimbursement requests within 30 days.

VFHY may verify invoice/reimbursement requests and request receipts or other supporting documentation during the grant period. Grantees must maintain receipts and supporting documentation for all grant expenditures but are not required to submit receipts with every monthly reimbursement request. The final invoice/reimbursement request must be submitted no later than August 1, 2027. Incomplete, inaccurate, unsupported, or unallowable requests may result in a request for a revised invoice/reimbursement and/or payment delayed until the issue is resolved.

6.6 Final Reconciliation and Closeout

All grant-funded activities must be completed by July 15, 2027. The final invoice/reimbursement request and Final Report must be submitted to VFHY no later than August 1, 2027. The final invoice must reflect all allowable grant expenditures and reconcile to the approved budget. All expenditures included in the final reimbursement request must have been incurred and paid by the grantee before the final reimbursement request is submitted. Any unobligated funds will remain with VFHY, and any overpayments or disallowed costs must be returned to VFHY.

The Final Report must include required performance information and project metrics. Grantees must retain all grant-related financial, programmatic, and procurement records for at least five years following submission of the final expenditure report. VFHY may make post-closeout adjustments or recover costs later determined to be unallowable or unsupported.

6.7 Prohibited Uses of Funds

The following expenditures are expressly prohibited and may not be charged to this award under any circumstances:

- Pre-award costs.
- Meeting matching requirements for any other federal funds or local entities.
- Services, equipment, or supports that are the legal responsibility of another party under federal, state, or tribal law such as vocational rehabilitation or education services. Such legal responsibilities include, but are not limited to, modifications of a workplace or other reasonable accommodations that are a specific obligation of the employer or other party.
- Goods or services not allocable to the approved project.
- Supplanting existing state, local, tribal, or private funding of infrastructure or services, such as staff salaries.
- Construction (see “Play Space Activation Grants: Allowable and Unallowable Costs” document).

- The cost of independent research and development, including their proportionate share of indirect costs in accordance with 2 CFR 300.477.
- Profit to any recipient even if the recipient is a for-profit organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs.
- Funds related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any state government, state legislature or local legislature or legislative body. See also 45 CFR part 93, 2 CFR 200.450, Lobbying, and applicable Appropriations Law.
- Paying the salary or expenses of any grant recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any state government, state legislature, or local legislature or legislative body.
- Lobbying, but recipients can lobby at their own expense if they can segregate federal funds from other financial resources used for lobbying.
- Certain telecommunications and video surveillance equipment. See 2 CFR 200.216.
- Costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs.
- Costs of advertising and public relations designed solely to promote the non-Federal entity.
- Meals, except in limited circumstances such as: (i) subjects and patients under study; (ii) where specifically approved as part of the project or program activity (not grantee-specific), e.g., children's services programs;

6.8 Record Retention and Audit Requirements

Grantees must retain all grant-related records (financial, programmatic, procurement) for a minimum of five (5) years following submission of the final expenditure report, or longer if required by a federal audit or litigation hold. If federal expenditures equal or exceed \$1,000,000 in any fiscal year, grantees are subject to the Single Audit requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F. VFHY must receive copies of all Single Audit reports pertaining to the subaward.

6.9 Data Integrity and Intellectual Property

Grantees must protect the confidentiality of all project-related data that includes personally identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI). Recipients must assume full responsibility for the accuracy of all data and reports submitted to VFHY. CMS holds a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or use materials, systems, and items developed or refined under the award for federal government purposes per 2 CFR 200.315(b).

6.10 Prior-Approval Triggers

Grantees must obtain written prior approval from VFHY before taking any of the following actions. Grantees should submit prior-approval requests at least 15 days in advance of the proposed action, with sufficient supporting documentation.

Prior-approval requests are required for:

- Any change in scope, objectives, or key personnel identified in the approved application;
- Disengagement of the Project Director or Principal Investigator from the project for more than three (3) consecutive months, or a 25% or greater reduction in their level of effort;
- Any rebudgeting that cumulatively shifts more than \$250 of the approved budget across direct cost categories within a budget period;
- Carryover of unobligated balances from one budget period to the next;
- Subaward, transfer, or contracting out of any work under the federal award not previously identified in the approved application;
- Pre-award costs (which are otherwise prohibited under this RFA);
- No-cost extensions of the period of performance;
- Acquisition of equipment with a unit cost of \$10,000 or more not specifically itemized in the approved budget;
- Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching arrangement, if any;

The list above reflects the prior-approval requirements set forth in 2 CFR 200.308 and applicable CMS RHTP Program Terms and Conditions, as in effect on the date of this RFA. VFHY may impose additional prior-approval requirements based on the grantee's risk assessment.

6.11 Whistleblower Protections

Grantees must inform employees in writing of the whistleblower protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce and must include the applicable requirement in each lower-tier subaward.

6.12 Trafficking in Persons

Grantees, their employees, lower-tier Grantees, contractors, and their employees must comply with 22 U.S.C. 7104(g) and 2 CFR Part 175, Appendix A. Prohibited conduct includes severe forms of trafficking in persons, procurement of a commercial sex act, forced labor, and acts that directly support or advance trafficking. Suspected violations must be reported immediately through the channels specified by the issuer, DMAS, CMS, or HHS.

6.13 Selection of Contractors

Procurements made with subaward funds must follow 2 CFR 200.317 through 200.327 and applicable state, local, Tribal, and organizational requirements. Grantees must use documented procurement procedures, select responsible contractors, include applicable contract provisions from Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200, check exclusion status when required, and retain records documenting the procurement method, selection or rejection, contract type, and basis for price.

6.13A Build America, Buy America

All projects involving the alteration, maintenance, or repair of “infrastructure” as defined in 2 CFR Part 184, including any buildings or real property, must comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements. BABA requires that iron or steel products, manufactured products, and covered materials used for the project are produced in the United States. The Buy America preference must be included in all subawards, contracts, and purchase orders for work performed or products supplied under the award.

6.14 Confidentiality, Privacy, and Security

Grantees must protect all personally identifiable information (PII), protected health information (PHI), and electronic PHI used or maintained in carrying out the award. Before beginning activities involving sensitive data, grantees must implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards; comply with applicable federal and Virginia privacy and security requirements; promptly report actual or suspected incidents; and cooperate with required investigation, mitigation, and notification activities.

6.15 Health Information Technology and Cybersecurity

n/a

6.16 Intangible Property, Inventions, Copyright, and Property Reporting

Grantees must comply with applicable requirements for intangible property, copyrights, patents, inventions, equipment, supplies, and federally owned property, including 2 CFR 200.313 through 200.315 and 37 CFR Part 401, where applicable. Grantees must maintain records for equipment and other property purchased with grant funds and provide those records to VFHY upon request.

6.17 Mandatory Disclosures

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.113, grantees must promptly disclose credible evidence of violations of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations that may affect the federal award.

6.18 Play Space Activation Grants: Allowable and Unallowable Costs

The Basic Standard

Pathways to Play is intended to encourage physical activity through improving existing play, recreation, and physical-activity spaces. It is not intended to construct new facilities.

Pathways to Play funds may support equipment, repairs, replacements, refurbishment, and other minor improvements when they do not involve structural building work or major site development. The key distinction is between making renovations or minor improvement to an existing play, recreation, or physical-activity space and undertaking construction.

Construction is not allowable. Construction, in this case, includes creating new structures, major structural additions or alterations, and substantial site development such as grading, laying new pavement, foundations, utility work, new plumbing, significant earthwork, major excavation, or demolition.

Limited installation associated with otherwise allowable equipment or improvements, such as attaching equipment to an existing pad or surface, is more likely to be treated as equipment or a minor improvement rather than unallowable construction. Allowability depends on the full scope of the proposed work.

Applicants should use this standard when developing their project and budget.

The examples below are intended to make the standard easier to apply. A project does not become allowable simply because one element appears on an allowable list; the full scope of work must remain within the standard above.

Unallowable Costs

Construction

- Broadband Infrastructure
- Constructing a brand-new playground
- Constructing a brand-new building
- Constructing a brand-new walking trail or bike path
- Creating or installing a new multi-use basketball court, pickleball court, or other paved recreation area
- Replacing a small pavilion with a larger permanent structure
- Installing a new asphalt or concrete pad
- Renovating an entire building
- Building a new pavilion or similar structure where none currently exists
- Constructing a new athletic field or running track

- Constructing a new splash pad or similar permanent recreation facility
- Constructing a new storage building, restroom facility, concession building, or similar structure
- Adding square footage to an existing building or structure
- Major excavation, grading, or site preparation for a new recreation facility
- Constructing new retaining walls or other major site structures
- Demolition activities

Routine Maintenance, Beautification, or Activities Not Directly Related to Physical Activity

- General landscaping, trees, shrubs, or beautification
- Murals and decorative improvements
- Raised garden beds
- Picnic tables or seating
- General maintenance that should already be covered by the property owner
- Routine mowing, cleaning, trash removal, or groundskeeping
- Routine painting or cosmetic improvements that do not expand opportunities for physical activity
- Routine replacement of mulch, landscaping, or other grounds-maintenance materials
- General parking improvements that are not necessary to provide access to the funded play space
- Grant-management or administrative costs unrelated to completing the physical improvement
- Murals and decorative improvements, even if they support and encourage physical activity

Generally Allowable Costs

The following are generally allowable when they are in support of existing play spaces:

Allowable Costs General

- Repairing, upgrading, or replacement of existing equipment
- Purchasing movable equipment, fixtures, or amenities that do not involve structural building work
- Purchase and installation of new equipment, provided that the installation is on an existing surface or space and does not include any unallowable construction activities
- Minor repair work for existing buildings or structures

- Permanent functional signage
- Minor building renovations such as interior modification, including installing or relocating interior walls and partitions
- Upgrading, replacing, or repairing existing lighting and electrical
- Upgrading, replacing, or repairing existing vents, thermostats, and HVAC
- Accessibility improvements that do not constitute construction, such as installing automatic door openers or ADA-related upgrades
- Security and safety improvements such as installing security cameras or access control systems

Playgrounds, Courts, Fields, and Recreation Surfaces

- Adding painted court markings or activity zones to an existing surface. Note that any painting must serve a programmatic purpose and cannot be for primarily cosmetic reasons
- Refinishing, restriping, or resurfacing an existing basketball court, running track, blacktop, or similar recreation surface if that would improve its ability to support physical activities
- Adding protective surfacing over an existing indoor or outdoor court
- Repairing or replacing individual damaged components of existing playground or recreation equipment
- Refurbishing an existing playground structure, including replacing damaged wood, hardware, swing seats, or chains
- Replacing worn or unsafe loose-fill playground surfacing
- Replacing damaged playground or ballfield fencing
- Repairing existing basketball goals, backboards, nets, bleachers, backstops, or similar recreation equipment
- Removing and disposing of old equipment, fencing, surfacing, or similar materials in order to install new equipment, fencing, surfacing, or similar materials so long as the removal is minor and does not involve heavy earthwork
- Adding or replacing new playground equipment to an existing playground without substantially rebuilding the playground
- Converting an existing unused paved area, blacktop, or other existing surface into a play or physical activity area without constructing a new surface, provided that installation of the physical activity area does not include any work that would be considered construction
- Replacing an existing playground structure with new playground equipment in approximately the same footprint, provided there is no addition to the surface area of the playground and the equipment is installed on the existing surface

- Replacing poured-in-place rubber or other permanent playground surfacing. If this is creating a new surface, it is unallowable but if it is renovating or upgrading an existing surface then it could be allowable
- Repairing an existing pavilion or shelter without substantially expanding its size/footprint or conducting significant earthwork
- Replacing bleachers, backstops, dugouts, goals, or similar permanent recreation features, so long as major site development is not required
- Installing artificial turf or another permanent playing surface on an existing recreation field, so long as it does not involve major construction/demolition
- Repairing or restoring an existing athletic or recreation field

Sports, Recreation, and Physical Education Equipment

- Purchasing movable sports and recreation equipment, including basketball goals, nets, swings, mats, balls, outdoor exercise equipment, and similar activity equipment
- Replacing broken or worn physical education equipment
- Adding removable activity stations or other recreation equipment within an existing recreation space
- Purchasing inclusive or adaptive sports and recreation equipment
- Purchasing portable or removable outdoor fitness equipment
- Delivery and installation costs directly associated with otherwise allowable recreation equipment
- Installing permanent playground equipment, so long as the equipment will be attached to an existing surface
- Installing permanent outdoor fitness stations, so long as the equipment will be attached to an existing surface

Paths, Trails, and Outdoor Site Improvements

- Making minor alterations to existing paths or trails
- Clearing trees, brush, fallen trees, or other obstructions from an existing trail as part of a one-time trail improvement
- Adding gravel, borders, drainage, accessibility features, or other improvements to an existing trail, so long as there is not substantial earthwork involved. All improvements must improve or enhance usage and cannot just be cosmetic or decorative
- Removing a tree or other site feature when necessary to complete an otherwise allowable play space improvement. This can be done to improve an existing play space but not to expand the footprint of a play space

- Installing shade features when necessary to support the safe and regular use of an existing play space, provided the work does not involve construction, a new permanent structure, or major site development

Existing Indoor Spaces and Building Systems

- Installing protective flooring, mats, or wall padding within an existing indoor physical activity space
- Repairing or replacing an existing indoor gym or recreation floor
- Making minor, nonstructural alterations to an existing room or underused indoor space so it can be used for physical activity
- Installing a climbing wall or other permanently attached recreation equipment within an existing building, provided there is no heavy construction or demolition
- Installing or relocating an interior wall or partition within an existing building to create or reconfigure a physical activity space
- Renovating an existing restroom or locker-room area when necessary to support use of an existing physical activity space, provided the renovation adheres to the other CMS guidelines and does not include new plumbing and electrical work
- Upgrading HVAC or ventilation within an existing gym, recreation room, or other physical activity space, provided that the proposed HVAC upgrades would not constitute construction. Replacing ventilation is allowed
- Hydration stations/water fountains that support access to physical activity if replacing an existing station/fountain does not require major plumbing work
- Replacement of light fixtures to support the use of approved lighting or recreation equipment that does not involve new wiring

Access, Safety, and Functional Improvement

- Installing permanent bike racks or equipment storage features necessary to support use of the play space, provided the bike racks are being added to an existing surface
- Installing permanent recreation or activity signage
- Replacing or fixing permanent fencing and gates
- Installing or replacing permanent lighting to support an existing play space.
- Repairing a wheelchair ramp, accessible walkway, curb cut, or similar accessibility improvement

Professional and Project-Support Costs

- Design, engineering, architectural, permitting, inspection, or site-plan costs necessary to complete an otherwise allowable project