



Sports & Exhibition Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2024

SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY

SPORTS COMMISSION

SPORTS EVENT FUNDING (SEF) PROGRAM

September 2024 Grant Award Announcement

PITTSBURGH, PA: – The Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (“SEA”) and its Sports Commission has awarded 18 Sports Event Funding (SEF) program grants totaling \$878,250, that are projected to generate approximately \$77,199,265 in economic impact for Allegheny County. This program provides financial assistance to support major sporting events that provide significant economic impact to Allegheny County, with substantial hotel occupancy and tourism spending. Eligible events include athletic or Esports events, whether professional or amateur, that are regulated and sanctioned by a regional, national, or international organization or association. Funding of up to \$75,000 is available in the form of a grant.

The following sporting events were awarded grants:

ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE (2026 A-10 MEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP)

A five-day, 14-game, single-elimination basketball tournament to be held Wednesday, March 11, 2026 through Sunday, March 15, 2026 at PPG Paints Arena.

Grant amount - \$75,000

PITTSBURGH PHYSIQUE PROMOTIONS, INC. (PITTSBURGH POWER AND FITNESS FESTIVAL)

A two-day international event and fitness expo featuring two premier bodybuilding and physique competitions to be held Saturday, May 10, 2025 through Sunday, May 11, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - \$ 75,000

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH (JCC MACCABI CAMPUS GAMES)

An Olympic-style sporting competition for Jewish teenagers ages 12 to 17 from up to 60 worldwide delegations to be held Sunday, August 3, 2025 through Friday, August 8, 2025 at the University of Pittsburgh and other various locations throughout Allegheny County.

Grant amount - \$ 75,000



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HARD COUNT (PITTSBURGH NATIONAL QUALIFIER)

An annual youth flag football tournament for boys and girls ages 6 to 16 to be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 through Sunday, March 30, 2025 at Montour Sports Complex. Grant amount - \$ 20,000

ALPHA TOURNAMENT COMPANY (PITTSBURGH TOURNAMENT SERIES)

A six-tournament series of over 1,200 ice hockey games to be held Friday, October 11, 2024 through Monday, February 17, 2025 at Alpha Ice Complex and Shadyside Academy. Grant amount - \$40,000

THREE RIVERS ROWING ASSOCIATION (PITTSBURGH INDOOR SPRINTS)

An indoor rowing event conducted on rowing machines catering to athletes of all experience levels and abilities to be held Friday, January 31, 2025 through Saturday, February 1, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - \$9,250

GK SPORTS, LLC (2025 NIKE STEEL CITY BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP)

A two-day boys' volleyball tournament for ages 10 to 18 to be held Friday, February 7, 2025 through Sunday, February 9, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant amount - \$35,000

GK SPORTS, LLC (2025 NIKE STEEL CITY FREEZE)

A two-day girls' volleyball tournament for ages 10 to 18 to be held Friday, January 31, 2025 through Sunday, February 2, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Grant Amount - \$40,000

FRIENDS OF PITTSBURGH PROFESSIONAL SOCCER (RIVERHOUNDS SC THREE RIVERS COLLEGE SHOWCASE)

An 11 vs 11 soccer tournament which provides colleges an opportunity to scout and recruit high school-aged players to be held Friday, December 13, 2024 through Sunday, December 15, 2024 at the Montour Junction Sports Complex. Grant amount - \$30,000

THE PITTSBURGH SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION (A.K.A. "PITTSBURGH SQUASH") (THE PITTSBURGH OPEN)

An amateur squash tournament hosting over 75 players of all ages and abilities, as well as a professional squash tournament hosting 24 players from around the world to be held Wednesday, February 12, 2025 through Sunday, February 16, 2025 at the Rivers Club and Steel City Squash. Grant amount - \$35,000



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THREE RIVERS ROWING ASSOCIATION (HEAD OF THE OHIO REGATTA)

A two-day competition and recreation event for rowers of all ages and skill levels to be held Friday, October 4, 2024 through Sunday, October 6, 2024 at Washington's Landing and the Allegheny River. Grant amount - \$30,000

PREMIER RUGBY SEVENS (PREMIER RUGBY SEVENS STEEL CITY EVENT)

A seven-day rugby event featuring an eight-game competition and community engagement activities with local clinics and youth organizations to be held Monday, July 7, 2025 through Sunday, July 13, 2025 at Highmark Stadium. Grant amount - \$75,000

PITTSBURGH THREE RIVERS MARATHON INC. (DICK'S SPORTING GOODS PITTSBURGH MARATHON WEEKEND OF EVENTS)

A marathon offering walkers and runners of all ages to participate in a variety of races and other activities to be held Friday, May 2, 2025 through Sunday, May 4, 2025 in the streets of Pittsburgh and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Grant amount - \$50,000

3STEP SPORTS LLC (2025 HOOP GROUP PITT JAM FEST)

A youth basketball tournament for high school and middle school athletes ages 10 to 18 to be held Friday, April 11, 2025 through Sunday, April 13, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Mt. Lebanon High School, and RIZE Sports. Grant amount - \$74,000

BREAK THE CHAINS WRESTLING (WEST PENN DUALS)

An amateur youth wrestling tournament for both male and female participants ages 5 to 18 to be held Saturday, November 9, 2025 through Sunday, November 10, 2025 at the Monroeville Convention and Events Center. Grant amount - \$30,000

SUPER SERIES AAA, LLC (PITTSBURGH SHOWCASE 2025)

Two international hockey tournaments featuring 120 teams from various regions and states across the United States and Canada to be held Friday, January 3, 2025 through Sunday, January 5, 2025 at Alpha Ice Complex, Ice Castle Arena, and the UPMC Events Center. Grant amount - \$60,000

FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (THE FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION GREATER PITTSBURGH REGIONAL)

A four-day event challenging high school students to design and build industrial-size robots to compete in complex field games to be held Wednesday, March 19, 2025 through Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Grant amount - \$75,000



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BASKETBALL STARS OF AMERICA INC. (BASKETBALL STARS OF AMERICA 2025 SPRING TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT)

11 weekend basketball tournaments for boys and girls ages 8 to 18 to be held Friday, February 28, 2025 through Sunday, May 18, 2025 at various locations across Allegheny County. Grant amount - \$50,000

Funding for the program is provided by the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund. The next round of SEF applications will be accepted December 15, 2024 through January 15, 2025. Program guidelines and submission information are available on the SEA website at <http://www.pgh-sea.com/index.php?path=sef>.

ABOUT THE SPORTS EVENT FUNDING (SEF) PROGRAM

Since its inception, the Sports Event Funding (SEF) Program has awarded approximately \$3.17 million across 62 grants to 34 different organizations. These grants have supported events showcasing over 24 different sports. The funded events have generated an estimated \$200 million in direct spending within Allegheny County.

ABOUT THE SPORTS & EXHIBITION AUTHORITY (SEA)

As a joint authority for the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, the SEA provides venues for sporting, entertainment, educational, cultural, civic, and social events to improve the quality of public life. The SEA owns and leases Acrisure Stadium, PNC Park, and PPG Paints Arena, and owns and operates David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The SEA also owns parking facilities, public parks, development parcels, and various associated infrastructure improvements. For more information about the SEA, visit: <http://www.pgh-sea.com/>.

ABOUT THE SEA SPORTS COMMISSION

The SEA established the Sports Commission for the purpose of assisting the region in attracting and growing its competitive position in the sports event market. The Sports Commission, a five-member board, evaluates the financial, business, and public impact of proposals for Sports Event Funding and provides recommendations for funding to the SEA Board. For more about the Sports Commission, visit: <http://www.pgh-sea.com/index.php?path=ssc-formation>.