

United States Masters Swimming Endowment Fund Grants Program

The USMS Endowment Fund is the endowment fund established in 1998 by United States Masters Swimming that builds and maintains an endowment, the earnings of which are used for philanthropic purposes for the general benefit of Masters Swimmers and Masters Swimming. It serves as a funder, catalyst, neutral conveyor and repository for information with respect to Masters Swimming needs, issues and institutions.

The USMS Endowment Fund shares the common promise that the intentions of our donors will forever be translated into meaningful, charitable purposes. In view of the fact that there is no other charitable or philanthropic national institution addressing the matters of concern to Masters Swimmers, the USMS Endowment Fund is the right thing at the right time to address this need.

The USMS Endowment Fund serves Masters Swimming in many ways. Donor advised funds may benefit a broad range of programs involving Masters Swimming or Masters Swimmers, at the discretion of the donor.

The USMS Endowment Fund may benefit projects in many areas, with emphasis being in the following areas:

- Medical and Health Research focused on the benefits resulting from swimming fitness programs for adults.
- Development Assistance for new Masters Swim Teams and Local Masters Swim Committees.
- Outreach to other adult fitness organizations to help in the coordination of programs and facilities.
- Education--to improve leadership, address contemporary swimming and adult fitness issues and help Masters swimming programs with special needs.

GRANTMAKING POLICIES

1. Priority is given to programs and projects which expect to have a positive effect on USMS and its goals and objectives.
2. Grants are made to nonprofit organizations exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. Grants are generally given one time only for specific purposes and will not typically be awarded to provide annual operating expenses or support.
4. Grants are made with the understanding the USMS Endowment Fund has no obligation or commitment to provide any additional support to the grantee.
5. The USMS Endowment Fund operates without discrimination as to age, race, religion, sex, disability or national origin in the consideration of grant requests, and will award grants only to seekers which do not unlawfully discriminate as to age, race, religion, sex, disability or national origin.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE APPLYING FOR A GRANT

1. Grants are not made to individuals, except in the form of scholarships.
2. USMS Endowment Fund does not generally make grants to create or augment other organizational endowments.
3. The USMS Endowment Fund generally does not provide funding for projects, which are considered part of a regular school curriculum.
4. The USMS Endowment Fund does not generally support travel for educational or other purposes.
5. The USMS Endowment Fund does not provide grants in support of any political campaign, or to support attempts to influence legislation of any governmental body other than through making available the results of nonpartisan analysis, study and research.

GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

In reviewing grant applications, the foundation gives careful consideration to:

1. the potential impact of the request and the number of people who will benefit;
2. an imaginative and creative approach;
3. the extent of volunteer involvement and support for the project;
4. the commitment and capacity of the requesting organization's leadership to carry out the program or project;
5. the degree to which the applicant works with or compliments the work of other organizations in an attempt to eliminate duplication of services and to encourage programs that enhance cooperation and collaboration among institutions within the general field of Masters Swimming;
6. the organization's fiscal responsibility and management qualifications;
7. the possibility of using the grant as seed money for matching funds from other sources;
8. the ability of the organization to obtain the necessary additional funding to implement the project; and,
9. The ability of the organization to provide ongoing funding after the term of the grant as expired.

2010 GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

June 1, 2010 for award following the 2010 USMS Convention.

Please submit applications by 4:00 p.m. EST to:

USMS Endowment Fund Board of Governors
655 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34236

Please do not hesitate to contact Douglas D. Church, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the USMS Endowment Fund (317 773-2190; fax 317 773 5320), endowment@usms.org, dchurch@cchalaw.com. We are here to help you in any way possible.