

2027 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Goals and Objectives

- I. Caregivers – Support caregivers – whether paid, voluntary, or family – of persons who are unable to fully care for themselves and with a preference for those who are part of an underserved community. Preference will be given to organizations or projects that provide support to caregivers of older adults. Requests must address the following objective:**
 - 1. Increase opportunities for caregivers to take advantage of resources.**
 - Examples of such resources include, but are not limited to, the following: transportation assistance, support for volunteers, and training opportunities.
- II. Community Assets – Support significant cultural and historic assets and/or increase access to long-term arts instruction for youth. Requests must address one of the following objectives:**
 - 1. Increase access to long-term arts instruction for children and youth living in under-resourced communities.**
 - 2. Restore and leverage significant historic buildings and architectural landmarks, with a preference for sites that promote cultural tourism.**
- III. Design and Access – Support for projects increasing access to outdoor recreation spaces and programs and/or improving the walkability and bikeability of local communities. Requests must address the following objectives:**
 - 1. Support for pre-planning, development and/or construction costs. This may include projects related to increasing the walkability and bikeability of local communities, and improving waterways, greenways and recreation corridors.**

It is a preference but not a requirement that these projects:

- Incorporate green design to be environmentally sustainable
 - Incorporate universal access design to serve people of all abilities Please note: Sports facilities (including large facilities, fields, courts, etc.), playgrounds, and community gardens are ineligible for funding.
- IV. Youth Sports – Support organizations or projects that provide opportunities for all children to be active through sport. Requests to build collaborations among organizations are encouraged. Requests for projects should be related to one or more the following from the State of Play WNY Report:**
 - 1. Ask kids what they want.**
 - 2. Reintroduce free play.**
 - 3. Encourage sportsampling.**

4. Revitalize in-town leagues.
5. Think small.
6. Design for development.
7. Train all coaches.
8. Emphasize prevention.

To download a copy of the State of Play Western New York report, please visit:
http://www.ralphwilsonjrfoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/06/State_Of_Play_WNY_RWJF.pdf.

Eligibility

- Grant requests should range between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for Caregivers, Community Assets, and Youth Sports. Design and Access requests should range between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Funds will be released after grant requirements and obligations have been signed and returned.
- Requests may be for capital, programming, or operating. For Design and Access, this also may include planning requests.
- For Caregivers, Design and Access, and Youth Sports, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that meet the guidelines described above and reside in Western New York may apply for a grant. Western New York is defined as Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties.
- For Caregivers, Design and Access, and Youth Sports, government agencies also may apply. The intent is not to replace public funding but to augment and leverage it.
- For Community Assets, only 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that reside in Erie County may apply.
- For Youth Sports, funding will not go towards sports with high concussion risk such as: tackle football and boxing. The fund will also not consider requests for traditional sporting goods equipment. For those seeking sports equipment, we partner with Good Sports (a national non-profit dedicated to providing brand-new sports equipment to kids in need) and Leveling the Playing Field (who redistributes new and gently used sports equipment to expand access within youth sports and recreation programs). If you are seeking traditional sports equipment for your organization, please see the [link](#) for information on how to apply directly to Good Sports or reach out to Leveling the Playing Field at wny@levelingtheplyingfield.org. Please consult with Good Sports prior to submitting your grant request.
- There is a limit to one application per organization per funding category.
- Multi-year requests will not be accepted.
- Requests for endowments, religious purposes, attendance at or sponsorship of events, and for schools not registered with the NYS Education Department will not be accepted.