PROJECT PLAY WNY
2027 Winter Free Play Series
Grant Information and Schedule

- This grant is specifically for joining the Project Play WNY Winter Free Play Series for 2026. The goal for the series is providing youth in all 8 counties of Western New York opportunities to play, have fun, and enjoy Free Play!
- Applications MUST be submitted electronically online. No paper, emailed, or pdf applications will be accepted. Outcome reporting will also be online when closing the grant.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be in the 8 counties of Western New York:
  - Allegany
  - Cattaraugus
  - Chautauqua
  - Erie
  - Genesee
  - Niagara
  - Orleans
  - Wyoming
- Applicants must be serving youth (especially ages 5-14.)
- Applicants should fall into one of the following categories:
  - Qualified non-profit 501(c)(3)
  - Schools
  - Local governments and agencies

Other Matters

- PPWNY requires that all programming take place during the week the school district in your region is closed for Mid-Winter (February) Break 2026
- PPWNY requires that all grants be closed out within one year of the receipt of funds
- The failure of an applicant to properly close out a grant in a timely manner will be a factor when considering new grant applications.

Timeline

Application opens online:	December 1, 2026
Application deadline:	December 18, 2026, at 4PM *NOTE: Applications in draft form after the deadline will be considered abandoned and will not be eligible to be considered for funding.*
Decision notification:	Week of Jan 12, 2027

For grant-related and technical questions, please contact James Ballin at 917-292-3796 or jamesb@cfgb.org

Grant Application Questions

- Project name
- Amount requested
- Description of organization
- Date grant required
- Five-year history of prior grant requests to the Community Foundation
    - Previous requests, date submitted, and action (approved or denied) taken on each
- Financial background of organization including:
    - Annual operating expenses
    - Last fiscal year surplus/deficit
    - Accumulated surplus/deficit
    - Endowment market value

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Current Grantee of Ralph C Wilson Jr Foundation?
2. Weeklong Programming
    - Will there be a consistent time each day of February Break week?
3. Open Access
    - Indicate the number of individuals to be served by the proposed project.
4. Non-Traditional Sport Offerings
    - Will there be options for youth to engage with non-traditional sport offering as an individual or as part of a group?
5. Multi-generational Engagement
    - Will there be opportunity for family members, care takers and guardians to engage with youth during free play?
6. Accessibility
    - Will the space and activities be accessible for youth of any ability?
7. What will be done?
    - What actions/activities are proposed to meet this need?
    - What are the distinctive features of your approach/program?
    - Is collaboration a part of this application? If yes, please detail.
    - What is the timetable?

PROJECT BUDGET

- Provide a very specific complete budget breakdown, identifying costs of the individual items that constitute your funding request to the Foundation
- Budget narrative (optional)
- If PPWNY were only able to partially fund your request, can you proceed?
    - If yes, how would your programming be affected? Please detail.
- What investment is your organization making in this project?
- Other funding sources from whom funds have been requested and the status of these requests
- If ongoing, what are your plans for continuing funding?

CERTIFICATION OF GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- Confirmation that organization has a Conflict of Interest policy in accordance with New York State Law
- List of all board members

ATTACHMENTS

- Resumes or CVs of project personnel – required