



PROJECT PLAY WNY 2026 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 2, 2025

Application deadline: December 19, 2025, 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, 2026

For grant-related and technical questions, please contact James Ballin at 716-852-2857, x 253 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