



Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund
INVITATION ONLY APPLICATION (for renewal grants)
Proposals must be received no later than 5 p.m. EST on June 19, 2026

About The New York Community Trust

Established in 1924, The New York Community Trust advances innovative philanthropy across New York City, Long Island, and Westchester by leveraging the expertise of its staff and partners to support donors' priorities. The Trust leads competitive grantmaking, manages donor-advised funds nationwide, and convenes collaborative initiatives addressing critical regional needs. In 2025, it awarded nearly 11,000 grants totaling approximately \$230 million.

About The Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund

In 2017, the Heisman Trophy Trust established the Heisman Trophy Youth Development Fund in the New York Community Trust to support charitable organizations that combine athletics, academics, and leadership development to help young people up to age 18 strengthen their physical, social, emotional, ethical, and cognitive skills. This year, Heisman consolidated its philanthropic initiatives, including the newly named Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund (the Fund), under the Heisman Foundation.

The Fund is pleased to invite applications for renewed funding. Grants will range from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for a one-year term. The review and selection of grantees will be competitive, and some eligible organizations may not receive funding. **This 2026 renewal invitation is only open to the following organizations:**

1. AthLife Foundation
2. Beat the Streets
3. Brooklyn Boatworks
4. Brooklyn Youth Sports Club
5. DREAM
6. Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk
7. Eluminute
8. Evans Scholars
9. First Tee New York
10. Girls on the Run NYC
11. Hit the Books
12. Hudson River Community Sailing
13. I Challenge Myself
14. Ice Hockey in Harlem
15. Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
16. Kings County Tennis League
17. King Hoops
18. Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club
19. Long Beach Martin Luther King Center
20. NewFlex Youth

21. New Heights Youth
22. New Rochelle Basketball Association
23. New York Edge
24. New York Junior Tennis League
25. New York Scores
26. The Peter Westbrook Foundation
27. PowerPlay NYC
28. Prescod Institute
29. Play Rugby
30. Riverside Hawks
31. Rocking the Boat
32. Trident Swim
33. Write On Sports

Submission Materials

1. A narrative of no more than three pages, in 12-point font, that includes:
 - A description of your organization, including its mission, core programs, organizational priorities for the coming year, and the total number of young people served in the prior fiscal year.
 - A report of progress under the prior grant, including projected and actual outcomes, and how any problems were addressed.
 - A description of the proposed renewal project, including the number of weeks it will operate, weekly hours of participation in organized athletics, academic services (academic services must be offered at least five hours per week), leadership services such as mentoring and community service, and organizational partners, (i.e., public schools and/or other groups).
 - A description of the challenges facing participants served by the project, including academic, leadership, motivational, perseverance, and athletic-development and how the project will address them.
 - A description of how the project advances character and leadership.
 - An explanation of how a grant from the Fund will be used and the number of young people who will be served.
 - Project success metrics for the coming year and how they compare with the prior year's results.
 - Hyperlinks to websites or online materials that provide additional information about your organization and the proposed project.
2. A project budget for a one-year grant term, January 2027 through December 2027, showing expenses and sources of revenue. Organizations may request up to 20 percent of the total budget for equipment. Please list other charitable resources, including foundation, government, and corporate funders; the amount expected from each; and indicate whether each grant is committed or pending.
3. Your 2026 organization operating budget; a current list of your board of directors; and your 2025 fiscal audit or a copy of your most recent IRS Form 990.

If selected for an award, applicants will be required to provide at least two success stories about youth positively affected by the Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund for possible inclusion in an annual journal. These narratives should include quotes attributable to participants, as well as quotes from coaches, teachers, counselors, or group leaders, along with their names and titles. Selected applicants must also provide 8 to 12 high-resolution images and/or short videos that showcase the organization and young people participating in the program.

Submission Instructions

1. Prepare your narrative and budget (items 1 to 3) and combine them into a single PDF no larger than 25 MB. Save the file using the naming format “Organization Name.pdf”.
2. Go to The New York Community Trust’s [Grantseeker Portal](#) and click on “Apply” next to the **INVITATION ONLY—Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund Renewal RFP 2026**.
3. Complete the Proposal Cover Sheet and upload your PDF.

All applications must be submitted electronically through The New York Community Trust’s [Grantseeker Portal](#) **no later than June 19, 2026**; grant decisions will be announced in Fall 2026.

For More Information/Questions

For groups in New York City and Newark, NJ:

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For groups in Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk counties):

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