



Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund Request for Proposals Deadline: 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's goals are to:

1. Provide young people with academic support.
2. Teach teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, character, and excellence with integrity.
3. Make athletics widely available to young people regardless of ability.

The Fund invites proposals from nonprofit organizations offering year-round programs that integrate athletics, academics, and leadership development. Eligible programs must align with the Fund's goals and operate within the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Westchester County, or Newark, New Jersey.

Applicants may submit one application for a program located in only one of the following regions: the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Westchester, or Newark. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization or have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. Grants will be awarded for one year in amounts ranging from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The review and selection process is competitive.

Priority will be given to projects that:

1. Serve substantial numbers of young people.
2. Are based in disadvantaged communities or on at least five public school campuses.
3. Integrate academics, youth development, and athletics.

**Athletics is defined as organized physical activity led by adult or youth coaches with rules, formal practice, and competition (for example, baseball, basketball, football, squash, soccer, tennis, martial arts, track and field).*

The Fund will not:

1. Provide general operating support.
2. Support programs that are selective, operate only during the summer, or offer only basic academic support (such as homework help).

Submission Materials

Your application must include:

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 description of the proposed 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), and leadership services such as mentoring and community service.
 - 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 to December 2027) that details all project expenses and sources of revenue. Organizations may allocate up to 20 percent of the total project budget to equipment costs. In addition, list all other charitable contributions—including foundation, government, and corporate funders—the amount expected from each source, and indicate whether each grant is committed or pending.
3. If selected for an award, the applicant will be required to provide at least two 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 and 2) 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 **Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund 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**. Applicants will be notified by email if the proposal is of interest and may be asked to submit additional information. Please direct questions to:

For More Information/Questions

For groups in New York City and Newark, NJ:

Roderick Jenkins at heisman@thenytrust.org

Advisor to The New York Community Trust’s Heisman Foundation Youth Development Fund

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

Sol Marie Alfonso-Jones at sjones@thenytrust.org

Senior Program Director, The New York Community Trust—Long Island

For groups in Westchester County:

Lauren Perkins at lperkins@thenytrust.org

Program Director, The New York Community Trust—Westchester