



Youth Team Sports Allocation Meeting FAQ

From call held on August 28th, 2023

On August 28, 2023, OCFS facilitated a conversation about funding available to municipal youth bureaus to support youth sports. The purpose of the conversation was to provide as much information to Youth Bureaus as possible while the LCM is reviewed. Final language in the approved LCM will supersede the information provided on the call and summarized in this document.

About Youth Team Sports Allocation

- What is the difference between Youth Sports Education and opportunities Funds (YSEF) and Youth Team Sports allocation (YTS)?
o YSEF is a legislatively-dedicated funding stream derived from sports gambling. It can be used to support sports, activity, and movement for underserved youth.
o YTS is a new funding stream created in the State Fiscal Year 2024 budget that appropriated additional funds to support team sports for underserved youth. YTS funds are available as a legislative add and cannot be guaranteed from one year to the next.
• What is the definition of "team sport"?
o Key elements of a team sport include multiple individuals playing together/for the same entity (team), and individuals playing against each other in a competitive way. Please refer to the LCM for the final, formal definition.
o There are a lot of potential nuances and exceptions. For example, a ski team is a team sport but a group of youth going skiing together is not. Key differences in this example include that a ski team involves competition, coaches, and scorekeeping, whereas a group of youth that ski together for fun do not. Ski team costs could be funded by YTS and a youth ski club could be funded with YSEF.
▪ When determining if an activity falls under YTS or YSEF, something to consider is the motivation for the activity – for example, is it to compete against others in an organized way (like a league)? Is the activity part of an organized structure that tracks teams, player scores, has standardized rules of play, etc.? If so, it likely falls under YTS. If not, consider YSEF.
▪ Please contact OCFS for technical assistance with individual questions.

Examples:

Table with 2 columns: Program Type and Examples. Row 1: A Team Sport Program (Basketball, ski team, taekwondo team, summer volleyball league, community badminton tournament, cheerleading team, competitive swimming). Row 2: Not A Team Sport Program (Individual dance class, yoga program, introduction to horse-back riding, weight training sessions, taekwondo class, swimming programs as summer recreation).



YTS Funding Rules and Parameters

- When do program funds need to be spent?
 - The YTS and YSEF program year is October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, mirroring the program year of other funding streams allocated to municipal youth bureaus.
- Do programs need to operate for the duration of the program year to be funded?
 - No, but only expenses that fall within the program year are eligible for reimbursement.
- How does the \$50,000 funding limit work?
 - YTS will be awarded to eligible entities by municipal youth bureaus. These awards are capped at \$50,000. In order to accommodate counties with a limited number of eligible organizations counties may grant a single entity multiple awards, however youth bureaus are encouraged in the strongest terms to prioritize spreading available funds to a wide network of partners, where possible. When a single entity is granted more than one award, those awards must be for distinct purposes/costs (for example one organization operates the same program but in different towns, or one entity is awarded funds to improve infrastructure and an additional award to pay the coaches who will use the updated infrastructure).
- Will YTS programs need to be included in the resource allocation plan (RAP)?
 - Yes.
- What if a county has trouble spending the entire YTS allocation?
 - OCFS encourages youth bureaus to be creative and find ways to invest these funds in your communities. For example, searching local 501(c)(3) records may help you identify smaller "mom and pop" sports team like figure skating, synchronized swimming, etc. that could be eligible for these funds.
 - Consider adaptive sports programming. The purchase of adaptive equipment for youth with disabilities to participate in team sports would be eligible under YTS.
 - If counties conduct an exhaustive search for eligible entities and still have concerns, please contact OCFS as soon as possible.

YTS Eligibility

- Are LLCs eligible for YTS?
 - YTS funds are available to community-based organizations and not-for-profits. Municipal youth bureaus will need to determine whether applicants fit in these eligible categories. For specific questions please contact OCFS.
- Are sporting programs through schools eligible for YTS?
 - School districts are not eligible for YTS funds, but if a community-based organization or not-for-profit operates programming at a school site, that programming may be eligible. For specific questions please contact OCFS.
- Can large non-profits like YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs receive YTS?



- Yes, however youth bureaus should prioritize funding local grass-root organizations where possible.
- Can e-gaming or a chess team be eligible for YTS?
 - No. YTS applies to team sports involving physical exercise/movement.
- Can an entity that receives other youth bureau funds also apply for this money?
 - Yes.
- Can YTS be used to pay fees for playing a team sport (like a scholarship)?
 - Yes, however please keep in mind that YTS cannot be used to fund elite sport groups/teams/competitions. The purpose of YTS is to make team sports participation available and accessible to as many youth in the community as possible.
- Can YTS be used to fund coaches and other staff for team sports programs?
 - Yes.
- Could a summer recreation program receive YTS funds for athletic activities and also receive YDP for arts & crafts, field trips, etc.?
 - Possibly, if the athletic activities meet the requirements outlined in the LCM. If they do not, YSEF could be considered.

This is an excellent opportunity for youth bureaus to reexamine previous RAP and move sporting and athletic programs away from YDP funds and instead support them with YTS or YSEF. Given the availability of these funds, YDP can and should be used to support other positive youth development opportunities that do not have dedicated funding streams (the arts, STEM, civic engagement, etc.)

Procurement and Contracting

- Does OCFS have the ability to waive local requirements related to contracting out these funds?
 - No. Youth bureaus should talk to local partners regarding local contracting requirements and procedures.
- How will small entities manage insurance requirements that a county typically requires of contractors?
 - County contract requirements are a local matter that should be discussed with local administrators. Flexibility should be encouraged to support funding grassroots organizations. Ask your fiscal/finance partners about procurement mechanisms that offer more flexibility (often with a lower spending threshold).
- Can nonprofits using municipal fields apply for funds to be used for field upgrades, etc.?
 - Yes. The YTS and YSEF funding streams provides an opportunity to invest in infrastructure improvements that benefit youth athletics. YTS is limited to infrastructure that is used for *team* sports.
 - Counties are strongly encouraged to consider how YSEF can support infrastructure for swimming, such as pools, beaches, and other water



fronts. Improving youth access to safe swimming, including swim lessons and spaces monitored by lifeguards, can be lifesaving.

- Other examples of infrastructure improvements to consider include repaving courts, resodding fields, installing lights, building a storage shed for sporting equipment, etc. Please be reminded that to be eligible for YTS funding, infrastructure must relate to team sports.

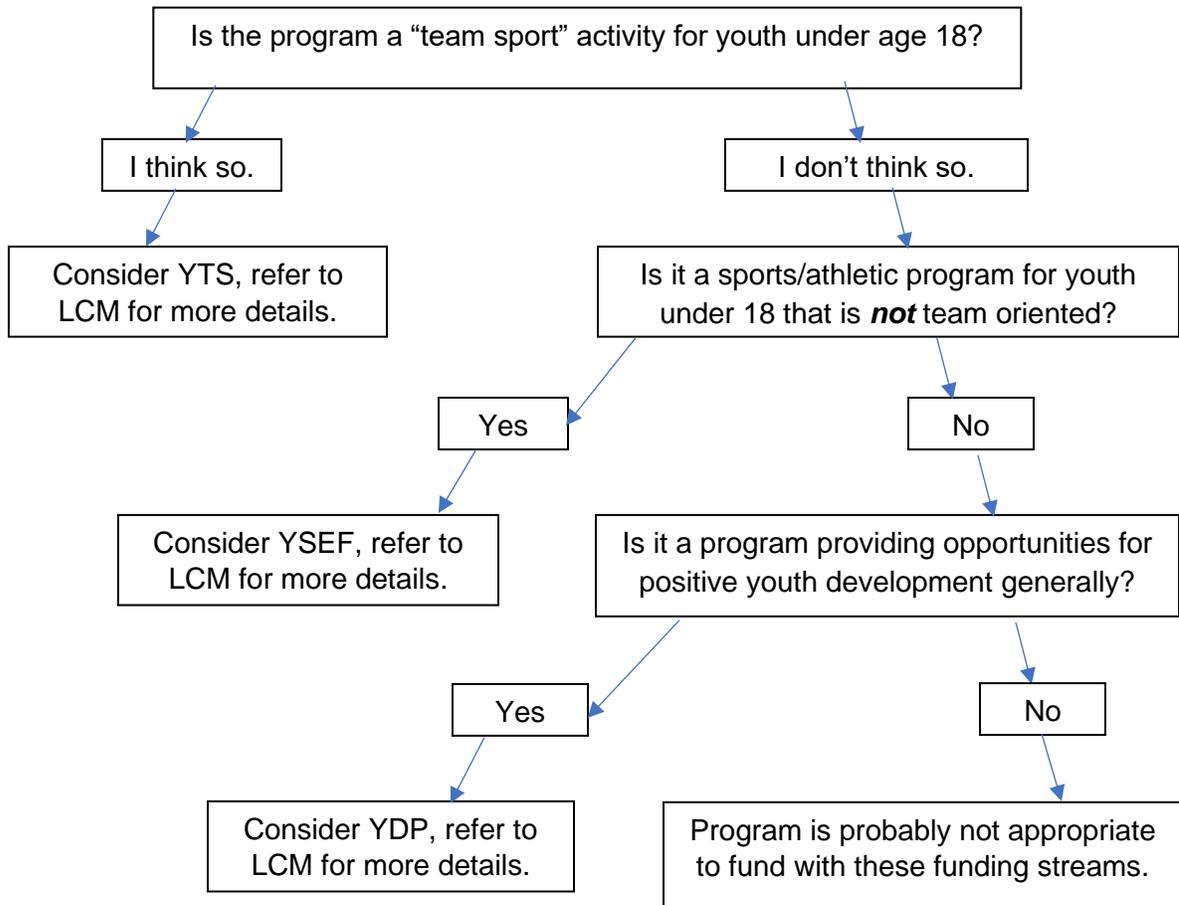
Application Process

- Do youth bureaus need to RFP YTS funds?
 - It depends on your local procurement processes. Youth Bureaus are required to use for OCFS-5011 to collect information from applicants and make funding decisions. Youth bureaus may engage in other processes, in addition to this form, to help advertise and allocate these funds.
- Do numbers of youth still need to be reported if money is used for equipment and/or field upgrades?
 - Yes, these fields will need to be completed in QYDS. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the impact these funds have in your community. When completing these fields consider how many youth will benefit from the equipment or infrastructure upgrade.
- Is there specific wording that must be included in an application?
 - Applicants will be required to submit form OCFS-5011 to the municipal youth bureau to be considered for YTS funding. Youth bureaus are required to provide technical assistance to applicants and to review applications against the requirements in the LCM. Resources will be published on the OCFS website to support youth bureaus and applicants through this process.
- If the youth bureau operates a program directly under YTS can the Youth Bureau hold back more than the allowed administrative rate to cover those costs?
 - Specific expenses of eligible programming can be reimbursed by YTS, however YTS funds cannot be used to supplant other funding.
 - For example, the youth bureau director may be involved in running a program with YTS funding; however, the municipal youth bureau is required to have a director regardless of whether the youth bureau accesses YTS funding/programming. Using YTS funds to support the director's salary above the allowable rate designated in the LCM would likely be considered supplantation. As a reminder, YTS funds are available as a legislative add and cannot be guaranteed from one year to the next.



I identified an athletic program I would like to fund. Which funding source should I use?

Consider the following:



If you have questions, please contact your OCFS representative! If you don't know who your representative is contact YouthBureau@ocfs.ny.gov.