Youth Learn to Swim (YLTS) Grant FAQ

- **What can USA Swimming Foundation Youth Learn to Swim Grant funding be used for?**
  - Free or reduced-cost swimming lessons (i.e. scholarships) for children 17 years of age and younger.
  - Transportation to and from a pool facility.

- **What expenses are NOT allowed under USA Swimming Foundation grant funding?**
  - Youth Learn to Swim Grant funds are not intended to provide budget relief, support facility overhead, construction or renovation, aid in the purchase of material goods (including equipment, apparel, etc.), or be used for advertising, promotional, or marketing purposes.

- **When are applications due?**
  - Completed applications must be submitted by November 15 at 11:59pm MT.

- **Where can I apply?**
  - Once open, the application is available at **https://usaswimming.smapply.io**

- **Do I have to be a part of the Learn to Swim Provider Network to apply for the Youth Learn to Swim Grant?**
  - Yes. All programs must be approved providers, listed in our Swim Lesson Provider Network prior to the application deadline. Programs not approved and listed in the Swim Lesson Provider Network by the grant application deadline will be deemed as ineligible for grant consideration.

    For information regarding the network criteria, please visit the Swim Lesson Provider Network page. To apply, please visit the ***Swim Lesson Provider Network Application*****.**

- **I'm being asked for a Federal Tax ID Number or employer identification number (EIN) to create an account—what is that?**
  - In order to establish a SurveyMonkey Apply account, you will be asked to create a new user account using your program's **Federal Tax ID Number/Employer Identification Number (EIN)** and a valid email address. A business tax ID number, also called an employer identification number (EIN) or federal tax ID, is a unique nine-digit number that identifies your business with the IRS. If you do not know this number, please check with your accounting or payroll department. This number can also be located on your last Federal Tax Return or your W9 form (which you will need during the application process).

    Note: organizations being asked to establish a SurveyMonkey Apply account have not met the pre-requisite requirement of the Learn to Swim Network. Please continue establishing a SurveyMonkey Apply account then proceed to the Swim Lesson Provider Network Application prior to completing the Grant application. Interested applicants must be an approved provider no later than November 15 to be eligible for the current grant cycle.

- **I operate several facilities under one Federal Tax ID number, does that mean I can only apply for one grant?**
    - Yes. Which means you only need to fill out ONE (1) grant application; however, each of your facility's funding requests can still be represented. For example, franchisees and YMCA associations holding a single Federal Tax ID Number for multiple locations/branches will need to coordinate efforts among all locations/branches to submit one (1) application under the entity, rather than multiple applications for each individual location/branch. This process applies to both the Network Application and the Grant Application.

- **SurveyMonkey Apply says there is already an account with my program's Federal Tax ID Number/Employer Identification Number (EIN)—how do I proceed?**
    - If an account has already been created with your Federal Tax ID Number or EIN, chances are someone within your organization, perhaps at an alternate location or branch, or a previous employee, has created a profile and/or application in advance of you. Since only ONE profile and grant application is permitted per Tax ID Number/EIN, you will need to coordinate efforts to combine your funding requests across all locations, including the number of children to be served.

      If you cannot locate the individual who created the original account, please contact us at grants@usaswimming.org to help identify the primary account holder or to update to the primary user.

- **What is the maximum award that can be received by an applying program?**
    - There is no maximum limit, however our typical annual budget of $500,000 provides funding for an average of 70 programs. Grant funding will be awarded based on your budget and number of youth directly impacted by funding.

- **How do I know if my application was successfully submitted?**
    - The Grant Application is divided into multiple tasks. All tasks must be completed prior to application submission to be considered and reviewed by the Grant Review Committee. **Each task has a "Mark as Complete" button at the bottom**. Once all tasks are complete the applicant **MUST also select "Submit" for the entire application** on the left-side of the screen to complete the application submission process. A pop-up confirmation will appear once the application has been successfully submitted, and a confirmation email will be generated. If you do not see or receive these communications, the application has not been marked as submitted and will not move to the review stage for consideration.

- **What kinds of information will the application require?**
    - Applicants should be prepared to provide a detailed narrative outlining the proposed program. Note, the more information and detail provided regarding the proposed program, the better. This is the chance to tell your story!

      Additionally, programs will be required to provide a breakdown of scholarship vs transportation dollars being requested, along with the number of youths for which grant dollars are being requested for.

- **How do I know if my costs are reasonable?**
    - It is understood the average cost per child varies based on geographical location, and for

adaptive programming where one-on-one instruction may be necessary and more costly. For example, New York City may have a higher programming cost than Belle Chasse, LA.

- **How are applications prioritized?**
  - We utilize CDC data to prioritize programs serving children from counties with the highest drowning rates.

    Additionally, programs who demonstrate the following will be looked at most favorably on:
    - Outline spending in the most cost-effective manner
    - Serving Underserved and/or high drowning demographics
    - Provide opportunities or connections with programs which allow for participation in U.S. Masters clubs or workout groups once the appropriate skills have been mastered
    - Coordinate community (school and municipal) partnerships within the proposed project that expands the reach and impact
    - Demonstrate long-term sustainability without continued USA Swimming Foundation funding support
    - Have and communicate a detailed plan of execution for the proposed project

- **How do I keep track of my application's status?**
  - Applicants may log in to their SurveyMonkey Apply account at any time to view the status of their application; status is updated in real time as applications move through the workflow.

    The first update will be made 2-6 weeks after the close of the application period, with each subsequent update to follow the same timeline.

- **If I am awarded grant dollars, are there any additional steps I must take after receiving grant dollars?**
  - Yes**.** Awarded programs must complete the End of Year Impact Survey as a requirement of receiving the grant. Awarded programs who do not complete this survey will be deemed ineligible to receive future grant dollars.

- **Who should I contact if I have questions about my eligibility or the grant process, or need assistance in accessing our organization's account?**
  - For Learn to Swim Grant questions and support, please contact us at grants@usaswimming.org or 719-866-3567.