



APPLICANT GUIDE • 2026

# Pickleball for Good Fund™

---

## Grants Program

*Your Vision. Our Funding. For Good.*

**Our Mission:** To accelerate access to recreational pickleball in under-resourced communities through grantmaking, partnerships, and a global volunteer network.

**Our Vision:** To harness the power of pickleball as a global force for social, economic, and environmental good.

1

## Program Overview & Eligibility

### Global Pickleball Grants

Awards to mission-aligned nonprofit organizations and groups. Made on a rolling basis following a multi-phase review.

### Pickleball Charity Event Grants

Challenge grants to local pickleball fundraising events where the nonprofit receives at least 60% of funds raised from the event.

### No Planet — No Pickleball Grants

For groups committed to championing environmental sustainability within their programs, facilities, events, and tournaments.

## 1.1 Mission Alignment

Eligible pickleball projects must primarily serve **under-championed communities** that are under-represented in the sport and lack sufficient funding from other sources. Priority areas include those communities that have limited access due to these interrelated factors:

## **SOCIOECONOMIC BARRIERS**

Cultural, financial, and systemic barriers that prevent access to the sport.

## **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

Pickleball deserts in rural, small town, and inner-city areas.

## **ADAPTIVE NEEDS**

For people with physical, cognitive, or age-related needs requiring specialized equipment and programming.

## 1.2 Eligible Applicant & Fiscal Sponsors Types

- 501(c)(1) Corporations Chartered by Congress
- 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations
- 501(c)(4) Community Good Organizations (e.g., volunteer fire departments)
- 501(c)(5): Represents labor, agricultural, and horticultural interests
- 501(c)(6) Business Leagues / Chambers of Commerce / Associations
- 501(c)(7) Social / Recreational Clubs / Membership Organizations
- 501(c)(8) & 501(c)(10): Fraternal Societies (lodge system)
- 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organizations
- Government Entities (e.g., Park Districts, Recreation Centers)
- Private and Charter Schools (50+ student body, socioeconomic challenges)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)
- Academic / University Researchers (Pickleball-specific research)
- Individuals with a qualified 501(c)(3) Fiscal Sponsor or Partner

APPLICATION PROCESS

# Four Phases to Funding

We are eager to hear more about your pickleball project! Our multi-phase process ensures every application receives thoughtful, mission-aligned review.

PHASE 1

## Initial Inquiry

Mandatory for all applicants

PHASE 2

## Detailed Proposal

By invitation only

PHASE 3

## Due Diligence

Final verification & award

PHASE 4

## Post-Award Reporting

Ongoing impact tracking

PHASE 1 — MANDATORY FIRST STEP

## The Initial Inquiry

The Initial Inquiry is the required first step for all applicants. It allows our volunteer Grants Committee members to quickly assess alignment with our mission before requesting a full proposal. Available on our website at [pickleballforgood.org/apply-for-good/](https://pickleballforgood.org/apply-for-good/)

### REQUIRED INFORMATION

REQUIREMENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>Organization Details</b>	Name, Contact Information, and your specific organizational structure such as 501(c)(3).
<b>Project Purpose Summary</b>	A concise, single-paragraph statement detailing the grant's objective and the under-championed community it will serve.
<b>Project Location</b>	Specific city/region where the project will be implemented.
<b>Funding Request</b>	The project's total budget and specific dollar amount requested (up to \$5,000 USD).
<b>Project Needs</b>	Specify the primary category: Operations/Expenses, Equipment/Gear, Court Construction/Maintenance, or Pickleball Charity Event Challenge Grant.

#### Review Timeline

Our Grants Committee reviews Initial Inquiries on a **rolling basis**. You will be contacted via email within **21 business days** of submission with either an **Invitation to Submit** (proceed to Phase 2) or a Decline if your project is not aligned with our mission or ineligible.

## PHASE 2 — BY INVITATION ONLY

## The Detailed Proposal

Applicants invited to Phase 2 must submit a comprehensive proposal package. This phase requires detailed planning and supporting legal/financial documentation. All documents should be submitted electronically as a single package or via the dedicated portal link provided in your invitation.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

#### Comprehensive Project Plan

A 2–3 page narrative covering the problem, solution, implementation timeline, key milestones, and anticipated short- and long-term impacts.

#### Detailed Budget

A line-item breakdown of how the grant funds will be spent, including any secured or pending funding or matching grants.

#### Organizational Financials

Your organization's (or fiscal sponsor's) most recent IRS Form 990 (or equivalent for non-US entities) and current operational budget.

#### Legal Status Documentation

A copy of your or your fiscal sponsor's official IRS Determination Letter (for US 501(c) (3) applicants) or official legal formation documents.

#### Key Personnel Biographies

Short bios for the Project Lead and other core team members responsible for execution.

#### Evaluation Plan

A brief plan detailing how you will measure success (e.g., specific metrics for participation, court usage, health/economic/environmental benefit, etc.).

### Review & Decision Timeline

Once the Detailed Proposal is submitted, applicants may anticipate a final decision within **6–8 weeks**. The review team will assess the proposal's feasibility, financial stability of the organization and partners, and potential for sustainable social good.

## PHASE 3

### PHASE 3 — PRIOR TO FUND DISTRIBUTION

## Due Diligence & Award

We will conduct a final due diligence review. This process ensures accountability and verifies the information presented in the proposal.

1

### Financial Verification

Review of your submitted financial documents to confirm fiscal health and ensure the applicant and its fiscal sponsor are capable of managing the grant funds responsibly.

2

### Interview

A required virtual interview with the Project Lead and/or organizational leadership to discuss the plan, budget assumptions, and team capacity.

3

### Site/Program Verification

We may request recent photos, video evidence, or conduct a virtual site tour to confirm the proposed location and project need (especially for court projects).

### 4.2 Grant Agreement

Upon approval, the Grantee (and Fiscal Sponsor) must sign a formal Grant Agreement outlining the terms, payment schedule, and reporting obligations. Funds will be disbursed following the execution of this agreement.

## PHASE 4 — POST-AWARD

## Reporting Requirements

Grantees must submit comprehensive reports to demonstrate the effective use of funds and the project's impact. **Failure to comply with reporting requirements may jeopardize future funding eligibility.**

## REPORT 1

### Interim Report

6 Months After Fund Distribution

Progress update on key milestones, expenditures to date, and narrative of any significant project deviations or challenges. May be written and accompanied by a 5-minute video report.

## REPORT 2

### Final Report

12 Months After Fund Distribution

Comprehensive narrative detailing project outcomes, success stories, final expenditure statement, and achievement against proposed metrics. Grantees may be invited for a virtual final report, in addition to a written and video report.

## 5.2 KEY IMPACT METRICS (EXAMPLES)

Grantees are required to track and report on quantitative metrics relevant to their project type. Our goal is to compile quantitative and qualitative measurements of how pickleball impacts health, wellbeing, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability.

Number of unique participants served

Total hours of structured pickleball programming delivered

Number of pickleball courts constructed or renovated

Percentage of participants from the target community

Surveys from participants, teachers, caregivers, coaches, etc.

Health improvement data & participant social/emotional/learning outcomes

## Ready to **Apply for Good?**

We are eager to hear about your pickleball project. Begin your Initial Inquiry today — the first step toward bringing your vision to life.

[Start Your Application](#)

[Learn About Us](#)

Need Support? Contact our Grants Team at [support@pickleballforgood.org](mailto:support@pickleballforgood.org)



Pickleball for Good Fund™ | Colorado 501(c)(3) | EIN 93-2395111 | [pickleballforgood.org](http://pickleballforgood.org) | 833.744.6631  
| 833.P4GOOD1