



## **PLAY Program Overview**

### **Private Leisure Assistance for Youth (PLAY)**

Established in 1993, the Private Leisure Assistance for Youth (PLAY) grant program provides children from low-income families in Central Ohio the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities offered through the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD).

There are three different types of PLAY grants: Individual, Summer Camp and Group.

- **PLAY individual** grants fund one class per session (fall I & II, winter, spring and summer) for each eligible participant up to a maximum amount of \$20. The applicant is responsible for any fees above and beyond this amount and needs to provide proof of eligibility\*.
- **PLAY summer** camp grants fund one week of camp for each eligible participant up to a maximum amount of \$90. The applicant is also responsible for any fees above and beyond this amount and needs to provide proof of eligibility\*.
- **PLAY group** funding enables CRPD community recreation staff the opportunity to offer unique, specialized, fee-based enrichment programs without having to charge the participant. These programs allow youth to experience an activity that would ordinarily be cost prohibitive to them. Each community recreation center may receive a grant of \$350 twice per year. These grants are only available from January 15 - November 15.

\*Proof of eligibility: Applicants only need to meet one of three methods to qualify.

- A copy of a current Medicaid/Care Source and/or Molina Card
- A copy of a current EPPICard
- A copy of the most recent income tax return scale based on the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development section 8 yearly guidelines. (Gross adjusted income must be less than, or equal to the amounts on the guidelines to certify eligibility. The Gross Adjusted income must be shown on the most recent Federal Income Tax Return.) <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#>

### **PLAY Fiscal Policies**

PLAY grants are distributed as follows:

- Individual: year-around
- Summer camp: summer
- Group: January 15-November 15

PLAY runs on a September 1 through August 31 fiscal year. All PLAY grants are reconciled at the end of this period.

### **PLAY Funding for grants**

Currently, the largest revenue source for the PLAY grants program is the annual *Champions for PLAY* golf outing, in which 100% of the golfers' fees go directly to the program. This high-profile event attracts business leaders and sponsors, from a variety of industries, to enjoy a full day of golf activities while helping kids and families in need. The *Champions for PLAY* committee comprised of 7-12 members, meet year round to help make the fundraiser a success.

### **Policy on PLAY Grants distributed**

Each year the *Champions for PLAY* committee will approve distributing 90% of the PLAY earnings to PLAY grant youth applicants. The remaining 10% income will be invested in accounts for future PLAY use.