



Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission announces 15 grants awarded in 2015 Mighty Ducks Ice Arena Grant Program

Blaine, Minn. (November 18, 2015) – At its November 18 meeting, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) awarded 15 grants totaling \$2.2 million under the Mighty Ducks Ice Arena Grant Program. The grants were awarded to assist Minnesota communities in developing new arenas, improving indoor air quality in ice arenas and eliminating the use of R-22 systems in ice arena refrigeration. The grants require a minimum dollar-for-dollar match from non-state funding sources.

Communities could apply for grants in these categories:

- 1. New Ice Arena Development.** Communities could apply for up to \$250,000 for new ice sheets.
- 2. Indoor Air Quality Improvement.** Communities could apply for up to \$200,000 for new electric ice resurfacing equipment or for the replacement or renovation of HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality.
- 3. Direct R-22 Refrigerant Elimination.** Communities could apply for up to \$400,000 to replace an existing R-22 direct refrigeration system.
- 4. Indirect R-22 Refrigerant Elimination.** Communities could apply for up to \$50,000 to replace an existing R-22 indirect refrigeration system

The grant program was authorized per Minnesota Statute 2015 240A.09.

Here is the list of grants that were awarded by the MASC:

City of Farmington	\$50,000
City of Grand Rapids	\$135,000
Hennepin County (Augsburg Arena)	\$400,000
City of Kasson	\$100,000
City of La Crescent	\$30,293
Lake of the Woods County (Baudette)	\$400,000
City of Litchfield	\$50,000
Pine City School District ISD #578	\$45,000
City of New Prague	\$3,468
City of St. Louis Park	\$400,000
St. Michael-Albertville Ice Arena Board	\$250,000
City of Shakopee	\$192,645
City of Silver Bay	\$72,000
Steele County	\$12,988
City of Stillwater	\$58,606

Mighty Ducks Grant Program history

Between 1995 and 2000, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission administered the original Mighty Ducks Grant Program. At the time, the program was initiated because of a serious shortage of ice time around the state. All young athletes were affected by this shortage, but the shortage was felt more severely by female hockey players. Girls' and women's hockey was growing, and the female side of the sport often lacked seniority in buying ice time. Instead of battling head-to-head with male hockey teams, the MASC pioneered an innovative solution: help construct additional ice facilities so all users could be accommodated.

When the original grant program was suspended in 2000, a total of \$18.4 million was distributed, with 79 grants for new facilities producing 61 new sheets of ice, and 74 arenas receiving renovation grants. A total of \$122.8 million of local non-state funding was generated to match the state grants.

In 2014, the Mighty Ducks Grant Program was revived. In addition to helping fund new arena construction and renovations of existing arenas, the revived grant program also focuses on funding the elimination of R-22 refrigeration systems and improving indoor air quality. The 2014 grant program totaled \$1.3 million and 10 grants were awarded. Grants were awarded to the Cities of Austin, Champlin, East Grand Forks, International Falls, New Hope, Sartell, West St. Paul, Winona and the Dassel-Cokato and Kittson Central School Districts.

For more information

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Upon request, Mark can provide local contact information for each of the grant recipients