Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant Application

Eastside Diamonds Youth Baseball · After-School Baseball and Mentoring Pilot

Portfolio sample by Mike McCarthy. It answers the real Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed grant questions, within their word limits. Eastside Diamonds Youth Baseball is fictional, as are its figures. It was not submitted.

The brief: Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed grants give Ontario nonprofits $10,000 to $100,000 for up to a year to pilot a new program or build capacity. The form asks for a 200-word description, the need and who benefits, barriers to participation, measurable results, up to three deliverables, and a budget in fixed categories with overhead capped at 15%.

Project summary

Eastside Diamonds Youth Baseball will use a $48,080 Seed grant over 12 months to pilot free after-school baseball and mentoring for 60 newcomer and low-income children in east Hamilton.

Application field	Selection
Requested term	12 months
Funding priority	Foster physically active lifestyles
Objective	Design and/or pilot an innovative program or service to address a community need
Collaborative application	Yes: two east Hamilton elementary schools [names] and [settlement agency]
Non-fixed equipment	Yes: 60 sets of gloves, bats and helmets (photos attached)

Project description

175 of 200 words

Eastside Diamonds will pilot a free, 30-week after-school baseball and mentoring program for 60 children aged 8 to 12 in east Hamilton. Most will be newcomers or from low-income families who have never played organized sport.

Twice a week, children will be bused from two partner schools to a nearby diamond, or to a school gym in winter. Each two-hour session combines baseball skills, team games and a 20-minute mentoring circle led by trained volunteers, many of them former players from the neighbourhood. Every child receives their own glove, bat and helmet to keep, and a healthy snack at every session.

The pilot removes the three things that keep these children off the field: registration fees, equipment costs and transportation. A part-time coordinator will recruit families through the schools and a local settlement agency, and will track attendance, fitness and confidence through simple surveys in September, January and June.

At the end of the year we will publish what worked, what didn't, and a plan to keep the program running with community and municipal partners.

Rationale and primary beneficiaries

Children who play organized sport tend to be more active, do better at school and feel more connected to their community. In east Hamilton, many children miss out entirely. [Insert local figure, e.g. child poverty rate or newcomer share for the neighbourhood, with source.]

Our two partner schools tell us that most of their students do not take part in any organized activity after school. Principals cite the same reasons families give us: fees they can't afford, equipment they can't buy, and no way to get to a field when parents are working.

The primary beneficiaries are 60 children aged 8 to 12 from these schools, with priority for newcomer families and those referred by school staff. Secondary beneficiaries are the 12 volunteers we will train, many of whom are young adults from the same neighbourhood, gaining coaching certification and leadership experience.

Baseball suits this group well. It is easy to start, every child gets a turn, and it is already familiar to many families arriving from Latin America and the Caribbean. This pilot will show whether a no-cost model can keep these children playing for a full year.

Barriers to participation

The pilot is built around the barriers that keep these children out of sport:

- **Socio-economic:** No registration fee, ever. Each child keeps their own equipment, so cost never decides who plays.
- **Geographic:** A school bus picks children up at dismissal and drops them at a central point by 5:30 p.m., so working parents don't need a car or free time.
- **Cultural and language:** Registration forms and parent updates in [the three most common home languages at the partner schools], with help from our settlement agency partner. Mentoring

circles are led by volunteers who reflect the children's backgrounds.

- **Gender:** At least half of spaces are held for girls, with a girls-only practice group if families ask for one.
- **Abilities:** Coaches are trained to adapt drills for children with physical, sensory or learning differences, and the coordinator meets each family to discuss any support their child needs.

We will track who registers and who keeps coming, and adjust quickly if any group starts to drop away.

Anticipated results and project plan

Result (per year)	Number
People directly benefiting	60
Programs and services impacted	1
Staff and volunteers receiving training	12
Plans or reports created	1
People participating in the pilot	60

Deliverable	Key tasks	Timing
1. Program ready to launch	Hire coordinator and two coaches; train 10 volunteers in safe sport and first aid; enrol 60 children through partner schools	Months 1–3
2. 30-week pilot delivered	Run two sessions a week with transportation and snacks; move indoors November to March; survey families in September and January	Months 3–10
3. Results report and next-year plan	Final family and volunteer survey in June; analyze attendance and outcomes; publish a report and a funding plan for year two	Months 10–12

Budget

The request is $48,080 over 12 months, with overhead at 7.4%, well under OTF's 15% cap.

Category	Item	Cost breakdown	Amount
Direct personnel	Part-time program coordinator	15 hrs/week × 40 weeks × $28/hr	$16,800

Category	Item	Cost breakdown	Amount
Direct personnel	Two paid coaches	2 × 6 hrs/week × 30 weeks × $22/hr	$7,920
Purchased service	School bus transportation	30 weeks × $250/week	$7,500
Purchased service	Winter gym rental	20 sessions × $120	$2,400
Workshops/meetings	Safe sport and first-aid training	10 volunteers × $150	$1,500
Supplies and materials	Session snacks	60 children × 60 sessions × $1	$3,600
Non-fixed equipment	Glove, bat and helmet sets	60 sets × $80	$4,800
Overhead and administration	Insurance, bookkeeping, registration system	7.4% of total	$3,560
Total			**$48,080**

A quote for bus transportation is attached, since it is the only purchased good or service over $5,000. The pilot is not part of a larger project.