



## 2025 – 2026 Affiliate Block Grant Approved Programs

It is the responsibility of the Affiliates to decide the distribution of the Block Grant funding. For this season, USA Hockey requires that **25%** of the Block Grant funds received by each Affiliate for the 2025/26 season be used for growth initiatives and **15%** be used for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.

Designated programs need to have program and process goals with specific, measurable outcomes. For existing programs, a plan would need to be developed on how it will be elevated and improved from previous seasons.

Below is a current listing of the approved programs the Block Grant funding can be used for within your Affiliate:

### **Growth Programs**

With our continued emphasis on growing hockey, Block Grant funds can be used for any and all programs which result in acquiring and retaining membership. USA Hockey requests that 25% of the Block Grant funds received by each Affiliate for the 2025-26 season be used for growth initiatives.

Below are some programs that Affiliates have been leveraging in recent years with the help of the Program Services department:

- Digital marketing and retargeting efforts
- Learn to Play programs
  - 8U
  - Opportunities for older kids
- New family mentorship efforts
- Hat Trick Growth Program incentives
- Increased recreational league development
- Focused efforts to increase 6U player conversion/retention
- Funding resources for a dedicated Affiliate Growth Leader
- Growth fellowship
- Try Hockey For Free Day promotions

### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Programs**

USA Hockey is committed to fostering a welcoming environment for all by building a diverse, equitable and inclusive game. USA Hockey requests that 15% of Block Grant funds for the 2025-26 season be used for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives to increase multicultural, ethnic and inclusivity efforts within our organization.

### **Player Development Programs**

Utilized to assist in the operation of Player Development Programs for both boys and girls in your Affiliate.

### **Women's/Girls Programs**

As girls' hockey continues to expand across the country, additional start-up funds may be needed. Funding can be used by the Affiliates to further promote girls' hockey.

### **Goaltending Development Programs**

Block Grant funding can be used for Goaltending Development Programs to help train and support initiatives throughout the country.

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<b>Adult Programs</b>	Funding can be used to assist in the operation of Adult Learn to Play programs, league retention efforts, state championships and development of further member benefits to players and league operators.
<b>USA Hockey National Screening Policy</b>	Funding can be used for background screening by our national background screen vendor, NCSI, for coaches, officials, board members, employees, volunteers, billets and anyone else who will have regular contact with minor athletes.
<b>One Goal and Quick-Change Programs</b>	The One Goal Starter Sets and Quick-Change Goaltender Equipment Program assists in bringing new players into our game and helps entry-level kids experience being a goalie.
<b>Coaching/Referee Seminars</b>	Help offset cost to conduct additional coaching and referee seminars, mentoring programs, evaluation programs, etc. Block Grant funds can also be used to institute specialized skill drill clinics for players.
<b>Risk Management Seminars</b>	Block Grant money can be used to conduct Risk Management Seminars to help reduce the risk in various areas of our game.
<b>Opportunities in Hockey Seminars</b>	Some Affiliates currently conduct these seminars for players who are entering high school. The purpose is to educate the players and parent(s) of future opportunities in hockey after high school. Emphasis is on what is the best avenue for that particular player: juniors, college prep, national team development, etc. College academic requirements to participate in sports, nutrition, physical and mental development are also addressed.
<b>Additional District or Affiliate Meetings</b>	As hockey continues to grow, additional communication and planning may be needed. Additional meetings can be funded by this program to help offset costs.
<b>Heads Up – Don’t Duck Awareness Campaign</b>	The Heads Up – Don’t Duck Awareness Campaign should be instituted nationwide. The video should be in the hands of every organization.
<b>Cross Ice Program</b>	Cross ice hockey is a staple of our 8U programming. Costs associated with this program include rink divider walls, additional nets, etc.
<b>Parent Education Seminars</b>	Several Affiliates have implemented Parent Education Programs to help educate parents and spectators on the need to keep the game of amateur hockey in perspective and to teach our children the true value of amateur sports. Costs include copied material to distribute, classroom and AV equipment for seminars, etc.
<b>Hockey Week Across America (HWAA)</b>	Block Grant funds can be used for programs which result in promoting events and activities surrounding HWAA. These programs will vary greatly, but all Affiliates are encouraged to use a portion of their Block Grant funds for this initiative.

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#### **American Development Model (ADM)**

As part of the American Development Model, Block Grant funds can be used to implement a Long-Term Athlete Development program within your Affiliate/District. Please contact the National Office to assist in the implementation of this program in your area, including supplementing the expense of an Affiliate ADM Coordinator to assist and work with the USA Hockey Player Development Managers.

#### **Disabled Hockey**

As disabled hockey continues to be one of the fastest growing segments within USA Hockey, Affiliates are encouraged to use some of the of the Block Grant funds to further support these efforts. Funds can be used for Blind Hockey, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey, Sled Hockey, Special Hockey, Standing/Amputee Hockey and Wounded Warriors. (Grant funds can **only** be used for USA Hockey registered programs).

#### **Safe Sport Program**

Block Grant funds can be used to implement the Safe Sport Program within your Affiliate.

#### **Other Programs**

All other programs which are not listed here but your Affiliate feels have value and merit to conduct in your Affiliate, must be preapproved, in advance, in order for Block Grant funding to be used to offset the associated costs.

Please submit a written plan which includes an outline of the program to Ted Devine ([ted.devine@usahockey.org](mailto:ted.devine@usahockey.org)) with your Block Grant application. A decision will be reached, as soon as possible, with all alternative plans to those listed herein.