

Nonprofit Recovery Grant : Entry # 2388**General Information****Date or application:**

01/19/2024

Organization Name

Colonie Youth Center, Inc.

Organization TIN or EIN:

14-1492095

Organization physical address:

15 Avis Drive
Latham, NY 12110-2601
United States
[Map It](#)

Is the mailing address different from the physical address?

No

Contact Information**Primary contact name:**

Nikki A. Caruso, MSW

Primary contact title:

Executive Director

Primary contact phone:

518-229-2488

Primary contact email:ncaruso@colonieryouthcenter.org**Preferred method of contact:**

Email

Website (if available):

<https://www.coloniyouthcenter.org>

Organization Info and Structure:**Please attach to this application proof of your organization's Tax-Exempt Status**

- [501c3-LETTER-of-DETERMINATION.pdf](#)

Date of establishment:

12/17/1965

Give a brief description of your organization. Please include information on the organization's activities or mission statement (150 words or less):

The Colonie Youth Center, Inc. (CYC) has served the residents of Albany County since 1965 focusing on its mission to provide programs and services to enhance the living experience of all people in the greater Capital Region.

CYC, a private nonprofit headquartered in Latham, serves thousands of children, youth, adults, seniors, and families each year. CYC provides school-age childcare for children in 16 locations across three school districts and operates four UPK classrooms with available wrap-around care. CYC is also partnering with Albany County to operate the new Little Sprouts Day Care at Shaker Place.

The CDPHP Fitness Connect at the Ciccotti Center, a project of CYC, is a multi-generational, state-of-the-art recreation and fitness facility focused on providing health and wellness programming to the community. The center, located in Colonie, offers a gymnasium, lap pool, indoor water park, walking track, strength, and cardio equipment, and programming for all ages.

Provide the total number of part time employees (if applicable):

117

Provide the total number of full-time employees (if applicable):

19

Provide the total number of volunteers (if applicable):

45

What is the organization's current annual budget?

\$6,313,991

Have you or the organization ever received any form of COVID-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the Pandemic?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify type and amount.

PPP#1 = \$357,000

PPP#2 = \$345,227

EIDL = \$500,000

Stabilization Grant #1 = \$889,300

Stabilization Grant #2 = \$335,000

Stabilization Grant #3 = \$311,000

Describe the purpose of the organization. Include a description of the target population, as well as the goals and objectives of your proposed project and the amount of Albany County residents that are served (250 words or less).

The purpose of the Colonie Youth Center, Inc. (CYC) is reflected in our mission statement to provide programs and services to enhance the living experience of all people in the greater Capital Region. CYC is proud to say that our target population is now comprised of individuals aged six months to 99+ years, serving thousands of Albany County residents annually.

In 2024, CYC will:

- Partner with Albany County to operate Little Sprouts Day Care at Shaker Place for children 18 months to five years;
- Operate UPK classrooms in at least two school districts, providing wrap-around care as needed;
- Operate school-age childcare programs in 16 locations in three school districts (ages 5-12);
- Operate five summer camp programs;
- Operate three school-year vacation camp programs;
- Provide health and wellness programming for thousands of county residents at the CDPHP Fitness Connect at the Ciccotti Center, a Certified Medical Fitness facility in Colonie for ages 6 months to 99+ years. Programming includes swim lessons, strength training for youth/adults, pickleball, rec and league basketball, and a wide range of activities for a vibrant senior population.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County stakeholders will benefit.

By awarding the Colonie Youth Center with a Nonprofit Recovery Grant, Albany County stakeholders will continue encouraging the recovery of our local economy since the devastation caused by COVID-19. The lack of childcare has put a tremendous strain on our economy. Without safe, accessible childcare, parents are unable to return to the work force. Without a regular paycheck, parents cannot maintain food, shelter, and the cost of health care. Without employees, businesses cannot produce. Without customers to buy their goods and services, more local businesses will close. Without local employment opportunities, a greater strain will be placed on counties and states for subsidies. Our entire economy suffers when a parent cannot access or afford daycare or school-age childcare. The Ciccotti Center keeps our community healthy, fit, and connected. The center offers programming for every age and ability focusing on wellness for mind, body, and soul. By encouraging the recovery of the Colonie Youth Center, Albany stakeholders will allow our community to look to the future by building back and expanding on all the services CYC has provided in Albany County for almost 60 years!

Negative Economic Impact:

What amount of funding is being requested?

\$50,000

Provide the total amount of lost revenue/additional expenses attributable to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CYC's 2019 pre-pandemic annual revenue totaled \$6,013,729. Annual revenue since the pandemic:

2020 = \$3,152,607

2021 = \$4,748,575

2022 = \$5,480,301

Lost revenue due to mandated building closures, program cancellation; inability to do business or fundraise at the same level.

Initial additional expenses attributable to the COVID-19 Pandemic included the purchase of MERV-13 filters for our air handling system (NYS mandate), temperature scanner for fever detection, specialized cleaning supplies, masks, etc.

Sustainable Operating Model: Describe how your organization adapted its operations to respond to (a) the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and (b) any long-term trends brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sustainable Operating Model

(a) The immediate impact of the pandemic was the closure of business by NYS mandate. With the closure of schools, wrap-around childcare was not necessary. Our administrative office was closed for three months. We did continue to operate a small childcare program for essential workers during this time. As schools re-opened, we were forced to drastically reduce the number of children in our programs due to social distancing requirements. The Ciccotti Center was closed for 8 months. Although allowed to reopen after 6 months, we were forced to wait another two months until back-ordered filters were received.

(b) The long-term trends of the pandemic are multi-layered. Staffing continues to be a challenge. Many adults did not return to the workforce and many college students (the core of our part-time staff) did not feel the need to find work. The pool of potential employees has started to improve as we have all learned to navigate the new normal.

In an attempt to mitigate the downturn caused by the pandemic, we reviewed our entire business model to ascertain where we could make adjustments and improvements. We have expanded the ages of those we serve in our childcare programs by expanding our school-age programming to include UPK children and by looking forward to operating a new daycare facility. This daycare facility was only made possible by a partnership with Albany County and provides county residents with an affordable, safe, accessible, option for childcare.

The Ciccotti Center now offers virtual, online, and remote access to fitness classes and personal training. This is a fantastic opportunity for those that still wish to practice social distancing, especially during the cold and flu season.

We have gotten more creative with fundraising initiatives by offering more sponsorship and naming opportunities. The five-year naming rights sponsorship by CDPHP at the Ciccotti Center allowed us to keep the facility open and viable during this challenging economic time by covering a portion of our mortgage.

If an award is made, describe how the funds will help the organization to recover from the negative economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and to sustain long-term operations in Albany County.

Awarded funds would allow us to catch up and improve systems at our Latham headquarters. This space houses our administrative office, a UPK classroom and UPK wrap-around childcare. General building repairs and maintenance were put on hold while we prioritized staffing and necessary expenses only. Although our security system software has been unable to receive updates since 2021, we have been unable to modernize the system. The security enhancements for cameras and door lock systems are an important safety measure to have in place for our staff and the children we serve.

We have found that the very high ceiling in the UPK classroom amplifies noise. The addition of acoustic panels in that area of the building will diffuse sound and reduce the echo in the space. This will provide a more welcoming environment for the

children and teachers and will buffer noise for the office staff that share a wall.

Our website needs to be updated to showcase and market our new programming and recruit staff. The site needs to be evaluated for current ADA and WCAG compliance including privacy and cookie policies.

We would also like to maintain our employee referral program to help combat continuing staffing challenges. As we look to the future, there is the availability of automated electronic attendance for program staff and parents with the acquisition of tablets and hot spots at program sites.

Does the organization possess a financial management system that provides records that can identify the sources and application of ARPA funds if an award is made? Please explain below:

Yes. Our organization uses QuickBooks as a financial management system.

Please explain how the negative impact associated with the COVID-19 pandemic led to revenue loss:

As mentioned earlier, revenue loss associated with the pandemic was exacerbated by the mandated closures of schools, offices, and fitness centers. Although emergency childcare was provided to essential workers, enrollment numbers went from 1100 children daily to 50 children. Enrollment continues to improve, currently totaling 889. Once we return to full staffing, additional children (presently on waiting lists) will be able to register. Operations at the Ciccotti Center continue to build back towards pre-pandemic numbers in enrollment and programming opportunities which allows the center to be open and available for more hours.

(Optional) Use the below space, or attached supplemental files, to provide any additional information that you believe will support the organization's request:

An example of how the pandemic impacted our fundraising efforts -

As of September 2023, CYC has held the Crossings 5K Challenge & Kids Runs for 20 years! This event is a fundraiser to support two scholarship programs for hard-working, income eligible families: The CYC Scholarship Fund for childcare assistance and The Sammy Nathan Scholarship Fund for health and wellness programming assistance.

In 2019, this event raised \$35,000. In 2020, we were forced to hold a virtual event which only raised just over \$12,000. Since the pandemic, this event is raising \$20,000+ as we work hard to build back to pre-pandemic numbers. The more money we can raise at this event allows us to help more struggling families that need our services.

Tax Information

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2019

- [2019-signed-990.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2020

- [2020-990-signed.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2021

- [2021-signed-990.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2022

- [2022-9902.pdf](#)

Please upload IRS Form W-9

- [2024-W-9.pdf](#)

Risk Assessment

Has the organization adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

We have policies in place that address each of these areas.

Is the organization properly insured?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify the types of insurance held and the limits:

Detailed information regarding the following policies will be made available upon request:

Directors & Officers Liability and Employment Practices Liability - \$1,000,000

Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000

Commercial Automobile Liability - \$1,000,000

Commercial Umbrella Liability - \$10,000,000

Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability - \$1,000,000

Abuse and Molestation Coverage - \$2,000,000

Cyber Liability \$3,000,000

Does the organization have a financial management system?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify

QuickBooks

Has there been any change in your organization's key staffing positions in the last 2 years?

No

Has the organization previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing Federal funds)?

No

Certifications:

Acknowledgment 1

I have read and understand the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (see link below)

U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

Acknowledgment 2

Should the County allocate ARPA Funds, I am able to and pledge to adhere to ALL Compliance and Reporting Requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Acknowledgment 3

I understand the County will contact me if/when additional information is needed and that information will be promptly provided to the County to support reporting requirements

Acknowledgment 4

If for any reason I am unable to comply with the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Requirements I will immediately notify the County in writing by email or letter

Acknowledgment 5

All information submitted in this application is true and accurate

Electronic Signature Agreement

I agree

By checking the "I agree" box, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

Type name

Nikki A. Caruso, MSW

Notes



Admin Notification (ID: 655253b8f18ee)

added January 19, 2024 at 3:21 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.