

Subject: New submission from Community Development Combined
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 at 3:56:42 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: jnytko@govsol.org
To: jnytko@govsol.org

General Information
Date of application: 01/05/2024
Organization name: National Little League
Organization TIN or EIN: 14-1707367
Organization physical address: 686 Providence Street Albany, NY 12208 United States Map It
Is the mailing address different from the physical address? Yes
Organization mailing address (if different): PO Box 8423 Albany, NY 12208 United States Map It
Contact Information
Primary contact name: Eric Schillinger
Primary contact title: President
Primary contact phone: 518-441-1296
Primary contact email: eric@shillinger-law.com
What is the preferred method of contact? Email
Website (if available): https://www.nllalbany.org
Organization Info and Structure:
Is the organization a nonprofit?

Yes

If nonprofit, please attach to this application proof of your organization's Tax-Exempt Status

- [NYS-Dept-of-state-Cert.pdf](#)

Date of establishment:

02/07/1955

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

For nearly 70 years, National Little League of Albany has been building community for, and a love of baseball in, the children of Albany. We are powered exclusively by volunteers committed to providing our kids a supportive, safe and fun environment to grow their love of the game alongside their friends and classmates, with the people who care for them most cheering the loudest. National is, first and foremost, a neighborhood-based community organization that happens to teach kids to play baseball. All eligible children are encouraged to participate, and the league has deliberately kept participation fees low to ensure the broadest possible access. No families are turned away for an inability to pay.

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

0

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

0

Provide the total number of volunteers (if applicable):

50

What is the organization's current annual budget?

45,900

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

No

Did your organization lose revenue as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic? If yes, provide the amount of lost revenue (2020-2022)

Total support for the league declined by 73 percent from \$98,255 to \$26,650 in the first fiscal year following the pandemic (October 2019 to September 2020) due largely to the canceled spring 2020 season and the loss of associated registration revenue and concessions sales. Total support for the league has rebounded slightly but remains at about half of pre-pandemic levels.

Project Proposal

Applicants may choose to apply for up to 2 program areas. Please select the primary program area for which you would like to apply.

Recreation and Outdoor Infrastructure

If applicable, please select the secondary program area for which you would like to apply.

Youth Services

What amount of funding is being requested (Must be at least \$100,000 and should not exceed program area totals)?

250,000

Is this a new project or expansion of an existing initiative, please describe.

While NLL has a long history in the heart of Albany, the project for which we are seeking funding is a new project for NLL. This funding will allow us to start much needed capital renovations of a facility that is critical in meeting the needs of children seeking to development the fundamentals of baseball, team work, and sportsmanship.

Please provide an executive summary of the proposed program or project for which you are requesting funds. Include a description of the target population, as well as the goals and objectives of your proposed project (500 words or less).

National Little League is seeking funding to complete much needed renovations to the three baseball fields that make up our facility, including converting our largest field to a "50/70" configuration (50' distance between pitching rubber and home plate; 70' base paths), and much needed repairs to the league's buildings and structures.

Major components of the project include:

- Expanding the footprint of, and reconfiguring, the infield on our large field to accommodate the greater lengths noted previously;
- Moving or realigning fences to accommodate the expansion of the infield.
- Laser grading and lip removal on all three fields (both processes will ensure optimal drainage – and an easier-to-maintain field – while providing a better playing surface for the infield).
- All fields will also require laying additional dirt on the infields, tilling and leveling of the basepaths, rebuilding pitching mounds, re-leveling the outfields, sodding areas as needed, and repairing, replacing or realigning fences. This will enhance the playability of our fields while increasing player safety.
- Each of the six dugouts will undergo repairs, to varying degrees, to address deterioration, with the two dugouts on the large field suffering from undermining

While playability and player safety are paramount, we will also invest in our buildings and structures to address the inevitable deterioration that occurs over time. This is more imperative now, after our reduced revenue streams prevented us from investing in their upkeep over the past four years. This work will include:

- Rehabilitation of our two batting cages, one of which suffered weather-related damage last winter and is presently unusable.
- The addition of sheds on our tee-ball field and in the backs of our batting cages to provide adequate storage for baseball and field maintenance equipment throughout the park.
- Repairs to one other shed and our maintenance garage, which sustained fire damage this past year.
- General repairs and upkeep of our clubhouse, including necessary plumbing work and electrical upgrades.
- Upgrades to our external electrical system and our electricity transmission infrastructure.
- Installation of a scoreboard on our 8-U field to replace one that fell due to disrepair during our COVID-19 shutdown.
- Enhancements to our spectator areas, to provide a better family/visitor experience while at National.

Please explain why this program or project is needed within the County.

Community youth sports organizations are in crisis. Leagues like National provide critical access to affordable recreational programming for all youth, regardless of ability or means. Even more important, leagues like National are neighborhood anchors and meeting places. Already facing pressure from more costly and competitive travel sports programs, community leagues like National that prioritize team building over competition were dealt a serious blow by the COVID-19 pandemic. The services we provide are even more important in urban neighborhoods that already face higher levels of need than many of the surrounding suburban communities. The median household income in our home Census track is only about 75% of the Albany County median. The requested funding will pay for direly needed facilities improvements that will bolster recruitment, ensure we can maintain our Little League charter and continue to offer these opportunities for Albany youth and keep our neighborhood ballpark open for another 70 years.

All funded activities must meet the objective of responding to the public health and negative economic impact of the pandemic. Please describe how your proposal will help address this objective and assist with recovery (250 words or less).

Youth sports promote public health not just through physical fitness but through the cultivation of community. Many of the children we serve were deeply affected by the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed their schools and cost them many important childhood experiences – including an entire lost season of baseball. Community organizations are an important antidote to that isolation, and places like National, where entire neighborhoods gather to play and socialize, are critical to the recovery and long-term health of our communities.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County stakeholders will benefit. Where possible, please use measurable outcomes to quantify impact.

Each year, National Little League provides opportunities for 150 to 200 kids from the city of Albany to play affordable, community-based youth sports. It provides these opportunities in an urban neighborhood where median incomes are substantially below the county median.

At a minimum, this award will help ensure that those 150-200 slots can be sustained by assisting the league with critical maintenance projects that are necessary for safe play and maintaining our Little League charter.

Moving forward, our plan is to expand enrollment to more children (our enrollment was closer to 300 in the five-year period leading up to the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown). This award is critical to keeping our registration fees minimal by allowing us to fund needed upgrades through other means.

National has made a deliberate decision to keep its registration fees substantially below those in neighboring suburban communities to ensure that financial hurdles will never keep a child off our fields. No families are turned away due to an inability to pay.

Additionally, adding the flexibility to expand our baseball diamond to "50/70" infield dimensions will make it easier for teams from other leagues in Albany to play our teams, increasing the opportunities for kids from all over the city of Albany to play baseball together.

Please describe your organization's ability to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:

National Little League is an all volunteer organization governed by a board of directors. The board is made up of volunteers with diverse backgrounds of experience and expertise. As a group we work together to produce two sessions each year of baseball for 100+ children. From prepping fields, coaching, managing concessions, hiring umpires, ordering supplies, and much more, this team of volunteers functions as project managers throughout the season. The project management skills required to produce a season of baseball will be used to project manage the field renovation proposals. Within the board structure, the Grounds Committee will be the group tasked as the primary managers of the project.

How will you track performance goals and define success? Include at least two key performance indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact?

Ultimately, we believe success will be defined by the satisfaction of our families, which we will measure through recruiting of new families to National and retention of those families.

The first, and primary, goal we have set for ourselves is the conversion of our large (12-U) field from a "40-60" field (40 foot distance between pitcher's mound and home plate, 60 foot basepaths) to an expanded "50-70" field (50 foot distance between pitcher and home, 70 foot basepaths). This will allow us to compete with all youth baseball leagues in the Capital District, but more importantly, all leagues within the city of Albany – an important consideration as we develop partnerships with the other Albany baseball organizations to create unified youth baseball within the city. This will help us keep kids at National; grow our fledgling intra-city, inter-league program; and offer an expanded suite of baseball options for our kids.

Closely tied to our primary goal, of course, is to improve the condition and playability of all three of our fields, providing all of our kids, at every age level, a better baseball-playing experience.

Our second goal is to offer an ever-improving ("better") visitor/spectator experience at National, one that will draw families, friends and visitors to our park and keep them coming back. The expected recurring impact from these improvements will be increased enrollment, increased visitation and more robust revenue streams (allowing continued investment into the park).

Project start date:

08/01/2024

Project End date:

12/31/2025

Please provide key project milestones inclusive of the anticipated timelines and descriptions

Milestone	Anticipated Timeline	Task Description
Batting Cage Repair/Rehabilitation	September 2024	ongoing maintenance and care of our two batting cages, and repairs to one, which sustained weather-related damage last winter
Shed construction/rehabilitation	December 2024	construction of 3 new sheds and rehabilitation of 1 existing shed to address the lack of storage capacity for baseball and maintenance equipment
Repair/upgrades to maintenance garage	December 2024	repairs to our existing maintenance garage to address both deterioration from age and fire damage sustained this summer
Upgrades to all fields	April 2025	expansion/reconfiguration of one field and upgrades to all three fields, to include leveling infields and outfields, new pitchers' mounds, dugout repairs, fresh dirt, and fence repairs
Upgrade to spectator areas	September 2025	improvements to spectator areas that will improve visibility, provide more/improved seating/spectating options, address deterioration of infrastructure and ensure safety for all visitors
Clubhouse upgrades	December 2025	general repairs and upkeep to our 25-year-old building - including electrical and plumbing (public bathrooms) upgrades - to ensure it is safe and serves the needs of our families and visitors

At the top of this page is a downloadable project budget. Please download the budget form and upload it here.

- [NLL-Budget-Sheet.pdf](#)

If you are funding a multi-year initiative, please provide a breakdown of funding level per year below:

2024	2025	2026
100000	225000	

Use this space to provide a narrative supporting and clarify anything from the proposed project budget above. In addition, if "Other Funds" or "Other Uses" are included above, please specify the source(s) below.

We anticipate seeking \$50,000 in state funding through the Office of Child and Family Services for youth sports programming. We also believe that through our network of Little League families we can secure private grants and fundraising for \$20,000. Additionally, NLL is in the financial position to contribute approximately \$5,000 to the project from our operating funds.

These other funds will be used primarily for the consultant fees such as engineering and construction designs, whereas we anticipate using the funds received from ARPA to complete the physical projects.

Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

ARPA funds are needed for this project because the scale of the needed improvements are simply beyond the league's ability to fund through normal operational revenue, especially after the COVID-related enrollment declines the league has experienced (a reduction from approximately 362 players in 2018 to 150 in 2023). Even if the league were to increase its participation fees, which would be inconsistent with our commitment to keeping National accessible and affordable for all, we could not realistically fund this project without ARPA support. To the extent that these funds are intended to help community organizations stabilize and rebound following the pandemic, National is a prime candidate for this funding.

A smaller grant than requested would require the league to scale back the scope of the project to prioritize those elements most closely tied to recruitment and enrollment. This would include core safety and competition items like resurfacing the Majors field and expanding the infield to accommodate the option for longer basepaths and pitching distance.

ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Please describe how your project will be sustained if it will

continue beyond this date.

We anticipate the major components of the project can be completed in the latter half of one construction season, with some additional work done in the early part of a second construction season to avoid disruption of play for our kids. This would require that we begin work in August 2024, immediately following the conclusion of our spring season, and completion of all projects by December 2025. A few of our ancillary projects can be worked on without disrupting play or park operations, so can be completed prior to end of year 2024. A few other larger, more disruptive ancillary projects would then be slated for completion after the 2025 season but prior to end of year 2025. This timeline is wholly dependent on award date. If the award is announced late enough that work will disrupt play, we will prioritize the playing of baseball and alter our schedule accordingly. In any case, we do not anticipate work to extend beyond the expenditure deadline.

Tax Information or Additional Information

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2019

- [NLL-2019-Taxes.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2020

- [NLL-2020-Taxes-2.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2021

- [NLL-2021-Taxes.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2022

- [NLL-2022-Taxes.pdf](#)

Please upload IRS Form W-9

- [NLL-W9-2024.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:

As a chartered Little League with Little League International, National Little League of Albany adopts all Little League nondiscrimination policies, including those that provide waivers consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and waivers for players whose gender identity is different than their gender assigned at birth. National also has a conflict of interest policy for directors that requires directors to disclose potential conflicts in writing and advise the board of any changes to their external interests that could conflict with their duties to National.

Is the organization properly insured?

Yes

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

As part of Little League International, NLL has access to Accident Medical Insurance and Liability Insurance, which contain policies for General Liability, D&O, Cyber, Crime, and Property insurance. All limits are at or exceed those required by Little League International.

Does the organization have a financial management system?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

NLL uses QuickBooks software to track all income and expenses.

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

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

Our organization has no paid staff but elects new volunteer board officers each year. A new president and vice president were elected by the board in December 2023. Although new to the executive roles, the volunteers elected to President and Vice President have been on the Board of Directors for several year.

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 below link)
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 & 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

Janet Andrade