

Playground Funding Guide

North America



Let's play

KOMPAN®

Congratulations!

You've taken the first steps toward creating a happier and healthier community by committing to a new playground.

Your budget will be a major consideration in your project, and a playground grant (a financial gift from a government program, foundation, or corporation) could be key funding that takes your project to the next level.

As your partner in play and fitness, KOMPAN has created this playground grant guide to walk you through each step of the process. Though we can't guarantee following these steps will secure funding, this guide can help ensure you have explored the opportunities available.

Once you've got a thorough understanding and are ready to get started, scroll through the list of national and local grant opportunities we've gathered for you. Soon enough, those applications will be on their way! Would you still prefer to have an expert by your side? Scan the QR code to the right to find a local playground consultant waiting to help with your playground journey.



www.kompan.com



6-Step Grant Application Process

Get the right experts on your side



1

2



Bring in project collaborators

Set your budget & design



3

4



Start networking

Complete application



5

6



Receive grant money - let's play!



The 6 Steps to a Successful Grant Application

Start here to secure additional funding for your playground

1. Get the right experts on your side

We recommend getting your local KOMPAN playground consultant involved in the process as early as possible. We have extensive knowledge of the grant application process and can often guide you in the right direction in a timely manner. We can assist you with the fundamentals of the application, like project visualization and cost breakdown. Finally, consider involving the true play experts, the children, to hear what they'd like to see in their play space.

2. Bring in project collaborators

We highly recommend having a team around you for support during the application process. If you are applying for a playground grant for schools, getting your parent-teacher organization involved as the core team can be beneficial. We've learned from experience that nonprofit organizations are more likely to secure funding. Therefore, it's a good idea to have them along for the application process.

3. Decide on Budget & Design

The design of your project can have a major impact on your budget. Your consultant can help you set realistic expectations that still deliver the WOW factor you're envisioning with the playground of your dreams. Many grants would like to see the playground project design and a breakdown of costs. We're here to help you with both.

4. Start Networking

You've decided your budget and have all the details in place. Now, your playground project is ready to be presented to the stakeholders for the final sign-off. Once approved, you can start applying for grants. Make sure to go for multiple kinds of funds, as both the size and requirements of the grants will vary.

5. Complete Applications

You've decided your budget and have all the details in place. Now, your playground project is ready to be presented to the stakeholders for the final sign-off. Once approved, you can start applying for grants. Make sure to go for multiple kinds of funds, as both the size and requirements of the grants will vary.

6. Get your grant money

Don't be discouraged if every application isn't accepted! Applying multiple times for grants is not uncommon, so remember all good things come to those who wait! You've done the research and the work, so a playground grant should be on its way, and soon after, the playground of your dreams!



National Grants and Funding

Below is a list of National Grant and Funding opportunities focused on supporting communities across the country.

GRANT NAME	
Aegon Transamerica Foundation	Improve the well-being of communities where Transamerica employees live and work.
Allen Foundation	Focus on training children and young adults to improve their health by forming good nutritional habits at an early age.
Allstate Foundation	Those who volunteer four to sixteen hours with an organization can earn \$500 or \$1,000 to support their cause.
American Express Grant Program	This program promotes diverse, equitable, and inclusive workforces and communities.
The AnnMarie Foundation Awards	Available to elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as preschools and day-care facilities.
Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Program	Empowering Appalachian communities to work with their state governments to design impactful investment opportunities.
Bank of America Foundation	This foundation aims to build thriving communities by addressing issues fundamental to economic mobility (e.g., workforce development and education, community development and basic needs.)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives.
Campbell Soup Foundation	Builds and supports healthy, thriving communities by providing grants throughout North America.
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Funds efforts to expand learning opportunities and supports for children, particularly those from low- and moderate-income communities.
Citizens Bank Grant	Awards nonprofit organizations based in Eastern or Western Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, or Rhode Island that address a specific social concern announced during the year.
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Supports community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities. Focuses on low-income communities and small communities with a population of 5,500 or less .
The Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Division	Provides the National Park Service and local communities with cost effective, partnership-based support in achieving America's conservation and outdoor recreation goals.

National Grants and Funding

GRANT NAME	
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program	Pioneered by Dana Reeve, the Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations that impact people living with paralysis, their families and caregivers.
CSX Beyond Our Rails – Giving Gateway	The online application for Community Service Grants is open from Jan. 1 through Dec. 15 each year. Every effort will be made to respond to applications within 30–45 days. Suggested Ranges are \$1,000 to \$5,000
Darden Restaurants Foundation Grants	Focus on those working on sustainability efforts.
The Dekko Foundation Grants	Focused on projects that support the healthy development of children from birth to age 18.
Entergy's Open Grants Program	Supports initiatives that help create and sustain thriving communities, with a focus on education/workforce development, poverty solutions and environmental programs.
Environmental Education Grants	EPA works to help many visionary organizations achieve their environmental goals.
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	The Kauffman Foundation is open to new ideas and innovative project submissions at any time throughout the year. We do not have proposal deadlines or established maximum and minimum dollar amounts. Grant amounts vary depending on the scope of the specific project and the size of the organization.
Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP 60)	The nation's leading youth wellness program empowering students, parents and educators to work together to build healthier communities.
Kaiser Permanente Community Health Initiatives	Supports innovative efforts to increase nutritious foods, physical activity, economic vitality, safety, and wellness in local schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.
Kerr Foundation Grants	Supports 501(c)(3) organizations and institutions that provide new or enhanced opportunities for those in the areas of education, health, and cultural development.
The Knight Community Foundation Program	Awards a wide array of topics from community to education but specializes in technology.
Kiwanis International Foundation	Supports health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.
L.L. Bean Conservation and Recreation Grants	Support a healthy outdoor lifestyle, as well as those who seek to preserve precious natural resources and focus on the various needs in communities.

National Grants and Funding

GRANT NAME	
Liberty Mutual Community Grants (formerly Safeco Community Grants)	These grants award up to \$3,000 for nonprofits seeking to improve their communities.
Mattel Children's Foundation	Aims to help provide unforgettable memories for kids in need by overcoming barriers to play.
MetLife Foundation	Awards nonprofits committed to building stronger communities by expanding opportunities for low- and moderate-income people around the world.
NIH Community-based Childhood Obesity Prevention	NIH funding opportunities for obesity-related research appear below. We encourage you to discuss your proposed research with an NIH program director before applying.
Nike Employee Grant Fund	Supports projects that promote sport or physical activity in the community.
NRPA Grant Opportunities	The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) periodically posts information about grant and fundraising opportunities that are available for park and recreation agencies, affiliated friends group, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits.
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)	The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) is a nationally competitive grant program that provides funding to enhance recreation opportunities in rural and urban communities. ORLP's funding enables these communities to create new outdoor recreation spaces, reinvigorate existing parks, and form connections between people and the outdoors.
Quality of Life Grants	Help nonprofit organizations that impact and empower people living with paralysis.
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grants	Funds research to deepen the understanding of some of America's greatest health challenges and identify new approaches to bring about meaningful change.
Rotary District Simplified Grants	Funds small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in district communities
Shade Structure Grant	Funds permanent shade structures for schools, daycares, parks, and other non-profit organizations where children learn and play.
Union Pacific Foundation Grants	Benefits communities served by Union Pacific by building and enhancing community spaces.

National Grants and Funding

GRANT NAME	
U.S. Department of Education	Programs fulfill the Department's mission to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness, to foster educational excellence, and to ensure equal access.
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation Awards	Funds organizations that support their communities through education and youth development; environmental stewardship; civic and cultural growth; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.
Wells Fargo Corporate Giving Grants	Provides grants to nonprofit organizations working to strengthen the resiliency of communities and the planet.
Zanvyl & Isabelle Krieger Fund	Focuses on supporting families with very young children ages birth to three years old.



Massachusetts Grants and Funding

Below is a list of Massachusetts Grant and Funding opportunities focused on supporting our local community. Get started by reaching out today!

GRANT NAME	
AARP Community Challenge	Flagship AARP Community Challenge grants have ranged from several hundred dollars for smaller, short-term activities to tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects. Since 2017, AARP has funded projects with an average grant amount of \$10,000 to \$12,000.
CDC State Physical Activity & Nutrition (SPAN)	Seventeen states receive funding to carry out CDC's State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) program. SPAN's goal is to make healthy eating and active living more accessible. SPAN recipients work on evidence-based strategies
Community Empowerment & Reinvestment Grants (EOED)	Administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development, the Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program develops, strengthens, and invests in community-led efforts to bring positive economic outcomes to communities that face historically disproportionate challenges to economic growth.
Harold Grinspoon Foundation	The Harold Grinspoon Foundation provides a variety of grants to organizations that support families and teens, arts and culture events, as well as projects that connect people to Jewish life in Western Massachusetts and beyond.
KaBOOM! Community Playground Grant	Kaboom, Disney Meet Me at the Park, and Voices or healthy kids should actually be listed in the National list. Then there is still a whole other list of MA funding programs that Matt had listed in the Excel file I included in the ticket, but just look at the comment I made because some of them in the Excel file should not be listed.
Massachusetts MOOR Inclusive Events Grant	The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible organizations to facilitate new inclusive and/or accessible outdoor recreation events or boost existing outdoor recreation events with new or expanded inclusive and/or accessible components.
National Inclusion Project	We believe every child deserves the chance to play, laugh, and belong. Our grants help communities create inclusive playgrounds and recreational spaces where children of all abilities can share in the joy of play—together. By supporting these projects, we're breaking down barriers and building parks that welcome everyone.

Massachusetts Grants and Funding

GRANT NAME	
NRPA / Disney 'Meet Me at the Park'	The "Meet Me at the Park Play Spaces" grant program is a collaboration between the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company. Disney funds grants that NRPA awards to park and recreation agencies that submit the best ideas to help make outdoor play accessible to children and families in under-resourced communities.
Peace Development Fund	Fueling grassroots power — apply once for three Community Organizing Grants supporting movements in the U.S., Haiti, and Mexico (Nov 3–Jan 30).
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Leadership for Healthy Communities	We fund programs that inspire bold ideas and encourage collaboration to achieve health equity faster and pave the way, together, to a future where health is no longer a privilege, but a right.
T-Mobile Hometown Grants	We'll help fund projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers.
USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.
Voices for Healthy Kids	Voices for Healthy Kids funds coordinated tribal, state and local public policy issue advocacy campaigns with a focus on equitable health for all.
Worcester Community Foundation Grants	Greater Worcester Community Foundation offers a range of competitive grant cycles annually to provide area nonprofits with access to flexible and supportive funding.







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