



USA CLIMBING TRANSFORMATION GRANTS – GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW & REQUIREMENTS

USA Climbing Transformation Grants are made to Programs that endeavor to make the transformative power of climbing accessible and inclusive in the United States in furtherance of the mission of USA Climbing, such as through:

- Programs to increase access, diversity, and inclusiveness in sport climbing, and/or
- Programs to educate athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, routesetters and others, such as for:
 - o positive coaching methods and training techniques,
 - o physical and mental health and safety, and
 - o competition rules

Applications can be submitted by any current USA Climbing member (whether an individual member or Gym member). Each application should seek a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$20,000. The mission of USA Climbing can be found here <https://usaclimbing.org/about/>.

The Process:

1. Applications are available at this link: [<https://usaclimbing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Grant-application-2021-11-14.docx>], and applicants also must submit USA Climbing's Transformation Grant Program Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire which can be found here: <https://usaclimbing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/USAC-Transformation-Grant-Program-Conflicts-Questionnaire-2021-11-14.docx>
2. Applications are reviewed by a Review Committee that consists of the Chairs of the USA Climbing Committees, with any conflicts of interest being reviewed under USA Climbing's Conflicts of Interest Policy <https://usaclimbing.org/resources/> and with consideration of the applicant's Transformation Grant Program Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire.
3. A list of current USAC Committee Chairs can be found here: <https://usaclimbing.org/about/committees/>. Any USAC Committee Chair who is an applicant or who is directly associated with an applicant will be replaced on the Review Committee, likely by another member of the USAC Committee over which that person serves as Chair. This does not otherwise preclude a Committee Chair from recruiting prospective applicants and still participating on the Review Committee, subject to disclosure and review by the Ethics Committee as necessary.
4. The Review Committee will recommend up to three Programs for approval by the USA Climbing CEO and Board of Directors, with each Program applying for a minimum of \$5,000 and maximum of \$20,000, and with all Programs seeking a total aggregate requested grant amount not to exceed \$50,000.
5. Applications will be considered using the factors described below, all grant amounts are subject to USA Climbing's budget which is supplemented from time to time by grants from the USA Climbing Foundation, and grant amounts will be allocated among approved Programs in accordance with a methodology recommended by the Review Committee subject to approval of the USA Climbing CEO and USA Climbing Board of Directors, which may take into account various factors including without limitation the needs of the approved program, the impact of the program on the climbing community, the number of athletes or participants the program will include, and the total funds available to be awarded.
6. A Transformation Grant made in one year does not imply that the recipient will have preferential status for funding in future years.

7. *There is no guarantee that any Transformation Grant will be given in any particular year nor that it would be given by a particular date.*

Timeline:

1. *Applications must be submitted by [2/28/22].*
2. *Review Committee to endeavor to make its recommendations by [4/30/22]*
3. *USA Climbing CEO and Board of Directors to endeavor to identify the approved Programs (up to three) by [5/30/22].*
4. *Approved programs to be announced by [6/1/22] or as soon as practicable thereafter.*
5. *All donations to the USA Climbing Foundation that are received between 1/1/22 and 12/31/22 and that are restricted to "Transformation" will be used for this purpose, plus any additional amounts at USA Climbing's discretion. USA Climbing will endeavor to make grants available by no later than 1/1/23.*

FACTORS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR USA CLIMBING **TRANSFORMATION** GRANTS:

Factors generally weighing in FAVOR:

- Program is active or ready for implementation and at least partially funded through other sources
- Program will benefit a large number of participants in the Grant year (and/or is likely to have impact on a large number of others even if not directly participating)
- Grant's benefits extend to future years without reliance on additional USA Climbing funding
- Low grant amount requested on a per-participant basis
- Program offers reduced cost or scholarships for those unable to afford it without this grant
- Likelihood of Program serving as a model for other communities
- Geographic representation among Programs

Factors generally weighing AGAINST (absent strong favorable overriding factors):

- USA Climbing would be the sole source of funding
- Benefits only a small number of individuals
- Frivolous/unnecessary programs/items
- Continuation of program requires ongoing annual USAC grants
- Lack of specificity (e.g., grant to support projects "such as")

Factors generally precluding grants (due to IRS, accounting or other restrictions):

- Grants for purposes of propaganda or to influence legislation
- Grants to influence the outcome of an election or carry on a voter drive
- Grants involving conflicts of interest, except where permissible under USA Climbing's Conflicts of Interest Policy and after review of USA Climbing's Transformation Grant Program Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaires (and if approved by the Ethics Committee to the extent so required)
- Grants to fund salaries (due to, among other things, complexity of employment law issues)
- Failure of principals and lead representatives to be members of USA Climbing in good standing with current background screens

Conditions on Grants:



- Principals and lead representatives to be members of USA Climbing in good standing with current background screens for the Grant year
- Current SafeSport training for all Program associated persons who will be in a position of authority over, or who will have regular contact with, any athlete
- Agreement to use the funding for the stated purpose
- Agreement to complete an evaluation form answering questions about the use of funding and impact of the Grant
- Agreement to submit a short video highlighting the impact of the Grant
- Willingness to be available to other USAC members to answer questions about the Program