

USA CLIMBING
TRANSFORMATION GRANT PROGRAM
FAQs

[Last Updated February 26, 2022]

Q1. Do I need to have a gym apply for the grant or can I apply on behalf of a community or program?

A gym may apply, but there is no requirement for a gym to be the applicant. An individual may apply as the principal and lead representative of the program. Each principal and lead representative must be a member of USA Climbing.

Q2. Do all of our program's volunteers who have contact with participants need to be members of USA Climbing?

Each principal and lead representative of the program must be a member of USA Climbing. In addition, each program associated person (including volunteers) who will be in a position of authority over, or who will have regular contact with, any athlete, will need current SafeSport training.

Q3. What type of USA Climbing membership is needed?

Any type of membership is permitted, so long as the membership type for each of the program's principals and lead representatives includes a requirement for background screening (for example a *coach* or *covered* volunteer membership). Covered Volunteer memberships are free.

In addition, each program associated person (including volunteers) who will be in a position of authority over, or who will have regular contact with, any athlete, will need current SafeSport training, so each such person (including such a volunteer) would need a membership of a type that includes SafeSport training as a required item (such as *coach* or a free *covered* volunteer membership).

Q4. I understand that each principal and lead representative of the program must choose a membership that requires a background screen. Is a background screen free?

A background screen is free (except for non-U.S. residents, as there is a charge for non-U.S. residents). For questions on residency status and whether your background screen will involve a charge for an international screen, please contact Sharlee@USAClimbing.org.

Q5. Can the background screen be done through a screening service other than through USA Climbing, such as through my employer?

No. The background screen through USA Climbing uses a vendor and screening process approved for sport National Governing Bodies. All background screens that are required for the grant program must be performed through USA Climbing.

Q6. What is the deadline for completing the background screens and SafeSport training?

It is preferable that the background screen for all principals and lead representatives be completed prior to, or within 30 days following, submission of the application. Please indicate this status in the application and your timeline for completion. Background screens typically take approximately 10 days to complete, after all screening questions have been answered.

SafeSport training must be conducted and current before receipt of any Grant funding. SafeSport training is required for each program associated person (including volunteers) who will be in a position of authority over, or who will have regular contact with, any athlete. If additional program associated persons requiring SafeSport training are added to your program after your receipt of grant funding, those additional persons must be complete and current in their training before being placed in a position of authority over, or having regular contact with, any athlete.

Q7. Where SafeSport training is required, can SafeSport training be completed in a SafeSport training program that is not provided by USA Climbing?

SafeSport training through USA Climbing is preferred. Any other SafeSport training would have to be current and demonstrably equivalent, and the individual would need to notify sharlee@USAClimbing.org in order to demonstrate that the training is current and equivalent and request that USA Climbing assist the individual in linking that training to the individual's USA Climbing membership.

In order to do SafeSport training with USA Climbing, a membership of a type that includes this item as being required (such as *coach* or free *covered* volunteer) is needed. There is no charge for SafeSport training through USA Climbing for a membership type (including a free Covered Volunteer membership) that requires the training.

Q8. Would a Paraclimbing Membership suffice?

Paraclimbing memberships will suffice for your program's volunteers who are at least 18 years of age and who work with athletes of any age. For your principals and lead representatives, a membership that requires a background screen (such as a *coach* or a free *covered* volunteer membership) should also be added.

Q9. How can I learn more about USA Climbing membership types?

For membership types, please see:

<https://usaclimbing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/USA-Climbing-Member-Handbook-Final-2021-2022-.pdf>

- Q10. **If I still have questions about USA Climbing membership types or about Background Screens or SafeSport Training, who should I contact?**

SHARLEE@USACLIMBING.ORG

- Q11. **Can the Grant funds be used to compensate volunteers? We do not have salaried positions, but we would be able to increase our volunteer capacity if we were able to provide stipends or hourly wages.**

If proposing stipends, salaries or hourly wages, the application should be very specific as to how the amounts will be determined and paid, which applicant entity will be treated as making the payments, and whether all attributes of employment will be addressed such as payroll tax withholding, workers compensation insurance, etc. As noted in the Grant overview document, grants to fund salaries are disfavored due to, among other things, the complexity of employment law issues. Hourly wages would present similar issues. Applications that involve paying stipends to volunteers might require similar analysis which could weigh against approval of the program.

- Q12. **If our program is awarded a grant, would all of our participants be considered USA Climbing athletes?**

No. If you seek funding for your program's athletes to pay for a USA Climbing competitor membership, please include that request in your application.

- Q13. **Can we ask for funding for programs that don't exist?**

Yes. USA Climbing will endeavor to make grants available by no later than January 1, 2023, so we anticipate that your program might not yet exist. However, it will weigh in favor of approval if your program is active or ready for implementation and at least partially funded through other sources.

- Q14. **Will multiple grants be awarded or just one?**

For this grant year, up to three programs will be approved for funding. We hope to repeat this process in future years.

- Q15. **If you apply for an amount (such as \$20,000), is it possible to be awarded less?**

Yes, but we hope that will not be the case. If your program is approved, you will be notified whether you are approved for up to the full amount requested, and we will endeavor to fund the amount approved.

Q16. Can I amend or modify my application after it has been submitted?

You can freely amend, supplement, or modify an application prior to the February 28, 2022 application deadline. In addition, the Review Committee might at any time ask you to amend, supplement, or modify your application or provide additional information.

Q17. The Grant Overview says that I will need to submit a short video highlighting the impact of the Grant, and that I should be willing to be available to other USA Climbing members to answer questions about the Program. Could you elaborate?

If your program is approved, our intention is to proudly celebrate your program both to encourage donors to support its funding and to encourage the spread of programs like yours across the country. We will likely do that through our web site, social media, and communications to our members. We hope that you will join with us in seeking other media distribution.

Even if your program is not approved, we will gladly communicate with you if we become aware of other sources of funding that appear suitable.

Q18. Can an applicant submit an application for more than one Program?

[NEW – FEBRUARY 26, 2022]

Yes, but please complete two separate applications – one for each Program.

Q19. Where can I find the information about the Grant and an application?

<https://usacimbing.org/donate/transformation-grant/>

Q20. Could you provide the email addresses for people who can help answer more questions?

Yes, see below. If we answer any questions that might help others in the application process, we will update these FAQs and re-post them.

Patti Rube,
Chair, Board of Trustees, USA Climbing Foundation:
patti@usacimbing.org

Catherine (Cat) Raney-Norman,
Senior Director of Development, USA Climbing Foundation:
catherine@usacimbing.org

JoAnne Carilli-Stevenson,

Chair, Nominating and Governance Committee, USA Climbing:
icarillist@gmail.com

Sharlee Strebel,
Membership Services & Safe Sport Manager, USA Climbing:
sharlee@usacimbing.org