

Hi

Great talking to you this morning. Here is the information on the Grant that the BYHA applied for. We saw that on 09/01/20 Wright County announced that they had a \$2 million grant that was going to be available for small businesses or non-profit organizations (see below for the article). The goal was to provide grants up to \$20,000 in assistance relief for losses due to COVID. It was a shot in the dark to see if they would entertain funding a youth sports organization, but we wanted to give it a try!

In Buffalo, we have always tried to keep our costs low. However, with the lack of gambling funds, our association actually had to raise fees 20% for the 2020-21 season, cut back some of the ice hours, reduce the number of team tournaments and have even reduced equipment purchases. We have also seen an increase in request for financial hardship and scholarships from families in our community. With unemployment and reduced working hours, the financial cost of hockey was becoming difficult for families to keep their kids involved.

We filled out the application online and sent them the information that they required. We were able to request up to \$20,000 in assistance since we had around a \$200,000 loss in gambling revenue. In the below article it lists out the funding information, who was eligible, and what requirements needed to be met in order to apply for the funds.

The head of the program was Jolene Foss, and I know that there was a review committee, but do not know who was all on that. I do know that our BYHA Safesport Coordinator, Kelly Hinnenkamp, is on the board for WCEDP and she works for the city of Annandale.

Jolene Foss
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We received an email from Heather Lemieux at Wright County that told us our application was approved for the \$20,000. We had to provide her with additional information (our lease agreement and a monthly invoice) to show how the funds would be used. We ended up sending her our Ice Bill! I believe that Mike MacMillan said he is a co-worker of Heathers.

Heather Lemieux
Wright County Assistant Finance Director
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We just received our check in the mail this past week from them!!! Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you or MN Hockey in this process. As you know, I am extremely passionate about youth sports (especially hockey) and would love for more associations to get help during these crazy times.

Attached:

- Article announcing the Grant
- Press Release for the Grant
- Our Application that was submitted online

Lena Gawtry
BYHA President
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