



Grant Program Prospectus

1. Purpose

- a. Provide financial support in the form of grants, to partially cover the cost of participating on a member AD swim team.
- b. Support families with financial need or extenuating family circumstances.

2. Scope

- a. Short Course season grants will be \$200 each. If the swim team provides additional financial support, AD will match up to an additional \$100 (total AD grant not to exceed \$300 per swimmer). Long Course grants, when available, will be \$100 each with a \$50 match. Grant funds will be paid to the member swim team when awarded.
- b. All swimmers awarded a grant will also be enrolled in the USA Swimming Outreach program. The support provided by USA Swimming and AD Swimming to support reduced membership fees under the Outreach program are in addition to grant funds. If an applicant is not awarded a grant, they must complete and submit an AD Outreach Membership application to be considered for reduced USAS membership.
- c. Swimmers must regularly attend practices and demonstrate commitment throughout the season. If the swimmer fails to do so, they will be disqualified from seeking future grants. The head coach is responsible for providing the Outreach Committee of AD Swimming with a written report at the end of the season. The coach's report form will be available on the AD website and is required to be submitted within 10 days after District Championships. Reports will be used in consideration of further grants to the swimmer.
- d. There is no limitation on the number of seasons in which a swimmer may receive a grant. Grants are awarded for a single season only. Athletes may apply multiple years for a grant, however, only one grant will be provided to a swimmer per season.
- e. There is no expressed limitation on the number of awards available to multiple athletes in a single family.
- f. Up to ten scholarships will be available for the Outreach Committee to grant on August 31, for the Short Course season. Additional scholarships will be awarded on October 31 to accommodate any swimmers that registered late or with teams having later registrations. All applications, including those not awarded in the first round, will be evaluated in the second round of awards.
- g. At the end of the winter (Short Course) season, any remaining funds will be made available for grants to cover the Long Course season.

3. Eligibility

- a. Athletes may be eligible for a grant if they have either of the following circumstances:
 - i. Demonstrated financial need – Financial need is independent of income level although, typically, those with the highest financial need will be of lower income. Applications received will be compared based upon



income and expenses to assess financial need. Those athletes with the highest financial need will have preference in the selection process.

- ii. Extenuating family circumstances – Other extenuating circumstances may impact a family’s ability to fund swimming costs. These might include a serious family illness, a significant loss of property due to fire or an extended absence of a primary wage earner. The Outreach Committee will consider applications that demonstrate an impending financial need based upon these serious events.
 - b. Both categories of eligibility will require completion of an application, including a statement of income and expenses. For applications involving extenuating circumstances, an additional statement will be required, describing the relevant details and, specifically, how the family’s financial situation is expected to be impacted in the future.
 - c. To be eligible for a grant, an athlete must register with an AD member swim team for the current season. Unattached athletes with no affiliation to an AD swim team are not eligible for consideration.
 - d. Athletes must be between the age of 8 and 18 at any time during the season.
4. Application Process
 - a. Applications will be made available on the AD website.
 - b. The deadline for submission of Outreach grant applications is August 24 for the August 31 awards and October 24 for the October 31 awards. The deadline is April 30 for the Long Course season. Applications received after the deadline will be evaluated on a first-come, first served, basis if funds are available.
 - c. During swimmer registration, member teams will inform swimmers that financial assistance is available in the form of grants.
 - d. Applications will be submitted to the athlete’s AD club team registrar in a sealed envelope marked “Strictly Confidential”. The registrar will forward the unopened application to the AD Outreach Committee Chair.
 - e. The Chair will copy each application and redact any information that might identify the applicant.
 - f. The redacted copies of the applications will be provided to a two member Application Review Subcommittee of the Outreach Committee to perform financial report reviews and make recommendations.
 - g. The Application Review Subcommittee will evaluate applications and provide a written proposal of grant funding to the Outreach Chair – based solely on the application and without any identification provided. The Outreach Chair will approve or disapprove the proposal and, if approved, the Committee Chair will match application identities and inform member team registrars of the decision.
 - h. The decision of the Outreach Committee is final and there will be no opportunity for appeal, although athletes may reapply in subsequent years.
 - i. Applicants will be required to sign a statement on the application asserting that all information provided is accurate. Intentionally falsified applications will automatically disqualify the applicant from any funding, current year and beyond.



- j. Matching funds will be distributed upon submission of an AD Club Outreach Declaration in a timely manner. The declaration form will be available on the AD website.
5. Confidentiality
 - a. Only the Outreach Committee Chair will have access to information about a specific family's financial need or circumstances.
 - b. All other individuals in the Outreach Committee will have information limited to the application without any team, athlete or family identification.
 - c. If a grant is awarded, the registrar and head coach of the AD member team will also have knowledge of the award, but will not have access to any confidential family information.
 - d. Application records will be kept by the Outreach Committee Chair in a secure location only for those applicants awarded grants. All other applications will be shredded after the notifications have been made.
6. The Outreach Committee cannot be responsible for applications which are mailed to the wrong address or are otherwise not received. It is advisable to keep a copy of all application materials.