

2010 USDF MINORITY PARTICIPATION FUNDING PROGRAM

The diving community recognizes its obligation to support programs that serve the various minority communities in this country. USDF further recognizes that many dedicated coaches and other members of the diving community have played a major leadership role in the development of these programs. While we have created a number of projects designed to reach “grass roots” diving and improve the quality of local coaching and competition, it is apparent that we are missing a major segment of our population and losing the potential benefits of their participation in our sport. In short, it is obvious that the minority communities include many potential athletes who would make excellent divers; however, we never have the chance to recruit them into our sport simply because diving is not a part of their community. While a small number of local diving programs have significant minority participation, there is a nationwide need for a much greater minority involvement.

The term “minority” refers to one of the following ethnic groups: African American, Latin American, Asian or Pacific Islander and Native American. USDF recognizes there are many communities where one or more of these minority groups may predominate; however, a local concentration of one ethnic group or another does not affect minority status for USDF purposes. USDF is committed to the goal of achieving a reasonable level of ethnic diversity among participants, coaches and administrators. In order to accomplish this goal, we recognize the need to reach out to members of the different minority communities. We must find and implement effective methods of attracting minorities to diving. These criteria are in addition to other established criteria applicable to all grant requests:

1. The application should reflect significant local community support. This support must include a matching fund financial commitment as well as general community support in the form of volunteer participation, facility use, parent booster groups, etc.
2. Participation by minority athletes at documented levels.
3. Scholarship funding will be given preference over capital funding. Grant applications should be narrowly focused to giving assistance to the minority athletes. A minority athlete application should not be used as a substitute for a funding request that is of general benefit to an entire organization.
4. Both past and projected future budgets should be submitted with the application to reflect that the minority program will be financially self-sustaining within a period of not more than three years. Because this criteria is an exception to the general funding limit of one year per grant, it is critical that the projection be realistic and reflect a significant reduction in the amount of Foundation funds required after the first year.
5. Semi-annual reports concerning minority participation will be required. Funding past the first year of any grant request will be considered on a tentative approval basis only, subject to review by the Foundation after the first year.
6. Minority involvement in management of the diving club or any related booster organization.
7. The diving community cannot fund complete broad programs on a national level, no matter how meritorious such programs may be. Conversely, we can encourage local diving club and individuals to initiate minority recruitment and participation in our sport.
8. The applicant’s minority recruitment efforts should be explained.