

Congressional Support for Youth Sports Recovery

The Issue:

The unprecedented coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has left virtually no sector of our economy untouched. The youth sports sector has seen a near complete shutdown. We estimate that the youth sports community has experienced \$8.5B in economic losses due to coronavirus-response-related event cancellations. As this crisis persists, the youth sports sector continues to see significant program and event cancellations that are central to our well-beings as businesses and non-profits. Procedures will need to be developed to safely allow the sports sectors to return to full operation, given the contact and group and crowd generating nature of youth sports. This could necessitate an extended period of shutdown across the youth sports industry before activities can resume. Our programs need congressional support so that we can withstand and recover from this crisis, and continue our efforts improving the lives of our nation's youth.

The Solution:

As a community we are calling on Congress to help mitigate the devastating losses to the youth sports sector by extending existing programs and creating and designating stabilization funding for the youth sports sector. The proposal asks for the establishment of a stabilization fund of \$8.5B so that youth sports providers can receive funding for employee and contractual-related expenses needed to continue operations and be reimbursed for economic losses sustained from non-refundable or insurable programming cancellations and disruptions due to COVID-19. This designated fund for youth sports providers would extend to all youth sports program providers such as coaches, trainers, clinic and academy providers, and youth sport event providers.

For the duration of this crisis, and well after it ends, the youth sports sector can play a part in helping youth and families stay active and healthy through remote participation. The proposal also calls for investment in the development of safe and quality remote programming and sport activities that our youth can partake in while social distancing. These investments can help stabilize the youth sports sector while providing beneficial sports activity that promotes well-being.

Call to Action:

Together, we can get through this. You can help us get support for youth sports sector recovery by **signing on to our proposal letter calling on Congress for support**. To add your organization's support for this letter, please contact Terri Lakowski with Active Policy Solutions at TLakowski@ActivePolicySolutions.com. Help us make the case for youth sports sector recovery funding by collecting and sharing data on the economic impact of COVID-19 on your program.