SAMPLE - Connecticut Grants That Fit

Prepared for: Borough Diamond Youth Baseball (fictional example organization)

Youth baseball league (fictional example) | Naugatuck, New Haven County, CT | Annual budget about $68,000 | Report date 2026-11-25

Mission (from intake): Give every Naugatuck kid ages 5-16 a safe, affordable season of baseball and softball, whatever their family can pay.

Needs (from intake): Catcher's gear, helmets and bats for 24 teams (about $9,000); Registration fee help for about 60 families; Batting cage net and infield repair (about $14,000); Start a girls' softball division; Volunteer coach training and an online registration system

At a glance

- 12 funding opportunities matched your town, organization type and needs; 7 can be acted on now.

- 7 nearby or similar programs were checked and ruled out (listed at the end, with the reason).

- Every entry links to the funder's own page. Amounts are shown only when the funder publishes them; otherwise they are marked unverified.

Top picks

#	Funder / program	Status	Typical award
1	Red Sox Foundation - Charitable giving grants (recreation pillar: youth baseball & softball)	OPEN - deadline soon	Typically $1,000-$10,000 for programmatic grantees
2	Connecticut Community Foundation - Strengthening Nonprofits (capacity building)	Open (rolling)	Foundation-wide average grant $5,000-$15,000 (program-specific range not confirmed)
3	Walmart (Spark Good) - Spark Good Local Grants (per store / Sam's Club / distribution center)	OPEN - deadline soon	$250-$5,000
4	Ion Bank Foundation - Community Awards Program (customer voting)	Annual - enroll ahead	$25 per customer vote
5	DICK'S Sporting Goods - Youth sports sponsorships and donations	Open (rolling)	Requests must be under $25,000; donations may be coupons or in-store gift certificates
6	Good Sports - Equipment Donation Program (new equipment, apparel, footwear)	Open (rolling)	In-kind equipment, not cash; up to 8 donations over 2 years once approved; shipping/handling fee of 5% of donation value
7	Every Kid Sports - Every Kid Sports Pass (family-applied registration fee help)	Open (rolling)	Up to $150 per qualifying child, paid toward registration
8	Red Sox Foundation - $500 stipends for affiliated Little Leagues in New England	Watch for 2027	$500

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#	Funder / program	Status	Typical award
9	Ion Bank Foundation - Competitive grants (programs and capital needs)	Closed - reopens early 2027	Not published on the guidelines page (unverified). Scale: 2024 Form 990-PF shows $990,922 in total grants paid.
10	Connecticut Community Foundation - Building Equitable Opportunity (competitive)	Closed - next date TBA	Foundation-wide average grant $5,000-$15,000 (program-specific range not confirmed)
11	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation - Youth baseball/softball grants (fields, programs, equipment, education)	Not accepting - watch	Not published (unverified)
12	The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation - Sports Matter grants (invitation only)	Invitation only	Not published

Next steps

- This month: apply to Red Sox Foundation (Charitable giving grants). Deadline 2026-12-13.

- This month: apply to Walmart (Spark Good) (Spark Good Local Grants). Deadline 2026-11-30.

- Any time: Connecticut Community Foundation (Strengthening Nonprofits) - rolling.

- Enroll ahead: Ion Bank Foundation (Community Awards Program) - Annual; voting starts in February; organizations must enroll first.

- Any time: DICK'S Sporting Goods (Youth sports sponsorships and donations) - rolling.

- Any time: Good Sports (Equipment Donation Program) - rolling.

- Any time: Every Kid Sports (Every Kid Sports Pass) - rolling.

- Put on the calendar: Red Sox Foundation ($500 stipends for affiliated Little Leagues in New England) - Offered in 2026 per the page; 2027 offer not yet confirmed.

- Put on the calendar: Ion Bank Foundation (Competitive grants) - 2026 Rounds 1-3 closed (meetings Apr, Aug, Nov 2026); portal re-opens early 2027; decisions about 3 weeks after each deadline.

- Put on the calendar: Connecticut Community Foundation (Building Equitable Opportunity) - Fall 2026 deadline was Sept 15, 2026; no spring round; next opening to be announced.

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Opportunity details

1. Red Sox Foundation

Funder	Red Sox Foundation
Program	Charitable giving grants (recreation pillar: youth baseball & softball)
Why it fits	New England program; prioritizes baseball/softball; funds your needs: equipment, programs, scholarships, youth development
Typical award	Typically $1,000-$10,000 for programmatic grantees
Deadline / cycle	2026 cycle closes Sunday Dec 13, 2026, 11:59 pm; update on 2027 re-opening in January 2027; committee meets monthly, answers in 6-8 weeks
Eligibility	501(c)(3) in New England (or Lee County, FL); one request per calendar year; one-time gifts (unlikely in consecutive years).
Does not fund	No capital funding, capital campaigns or endowments; no political or religious entities; no re-granting.
Source	https://www.redsoxfoundation.org/giving/
Checked	2026-11-25

2. Connecticut Community Foundation

Funder	Connecticut Community Foundation
Program	Strengthening Nonprofits (capacity building)
Why it fits	serves Naugatuck; funds your needs: technology, training
Typical award	Foundation-wide average grant $5,000-$15,000 (program-specific range not confirmed) [UNVERIFIED or partial]
Deadline / cycle	Rolling; Sept/Nov funds awarded within 6 weeks of meeting; spring funds awarded quarterly
Eligibility	501(c)(3) or municipal entity (fiscal sponsor allowed); board majority not employees or relatives; serves the 21-town area. First-time applicants must meet the program officer in person at least 3 weeks before a deadline.
Does not fund	Political or religious purposes; capital on buildings not owned by a nonprofit.
Funder size	IRS Form 990 tax year 2024: total assets $175,543,888 (ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer: https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/066038074)
Source	https://conncf.org/supporting-nonprofits/apply-for-a-grant/
Also see	https://conncf.org/supporting-nonprofits/grantmaking-overview/
Checked	2026-11-25

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3. Walmart (Spark Good)

Funder	Walmart (Spark Good)
Program	Spark Good Local Grants (per store / Sam's Club / distribution center)
Why it fits	nearest verified store: 1100 New Haven Rd, Naugatuck, CT 06770; money can go to general league use
Typical award	$250-$5,000
Deadline / cycle	FY2027 Cycle 3 closes Nov 30, 2026 (program page: last day to submit is Nov 30). Then Feb 1-Apr 15, 2027 and May 1-Jul 15, 2027. Deed verification must be done first.
Eligibility	Spark Good account verified by Deed; 501(c)(3) public charity, government entity, K-12 school with NCES number, or faith-based org with community project; serve the facility's service area; one grant per facility per fiscal year.
Does not fund	501(c)(4), (c)(6), (c)(19) organizations. PTOs/booster clubs need their own 501(c)(3) or apply through the school.
Source	https://www.walmart.org/sparkgood/Join-Spark-Good/program/local-grants
Checked	2026-11-25

4. Ion Bank Foundation

Funder	Ion Bank Foundation
Program	Community Awards Program (customer voting)
Why it fits	serves New Haven County; money can go to general league use
Typical award	$25 per customer vote
Deadline / cycle	Annual; voting starts in February; organizations must enroll first
Eligibility	Local nonprofit with current 501(c)(3) (or equivalent) located in or serving Hartford, Litchfield or New Haven County; funds spent locally.
Funder size	IRS Form 990 tax year 2024: total assets $14,819,407; grants paid $990,922 (ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer: https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/061513293)
Source	https://ionbank.com/about-us/foundation/
Also see	https://cap.ionbank.com/CAP/FAQ.aspx
Checked	2026-11-25

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5. DICK'S Sporting Goods

Funder	DICK'S Sporting Goods
Program	Youth sports sponsorships and donations
Why it fits	nearest verified store: 275 Union St (Brass Mill Commons), Waterbury, CT 06705; funds your needs: equipment
Typical award	Requests must be under $25,000; donations may be coupons or in-store gift certificates
Deadline / cycle	Reviewed monthly; decision typically within 60 days
Eligibility	Youth sports league in a community with a DICK'S store; listed sports incl. baseball/softball; EIN and nonprofit or school documentation; vendor quotes for services.
Does not fund	Religious or political orgs, individuals, scholarships.
Source	https://dickssportinggoods.versaic.com/login
Checked	2026-11-25

6. Good Sports

Funder	Good Sports
Program	Equipment Donation Program (new equipment, apparel, footwear)
Why it fits	national program; funds your needs: equipment; 'high-need' is judged by the funder
Typical award	In-kind equipment, not cash; up to 8 donations over 2 years once approved; shipping/handling fee of 5% of donation value
Deadline / cycle	Rolling application; equipment ships 2-4 weeks after fee is paid
Eligibility	Youth-serving organizations (ages 3-18) in high-need communities providing consistent access to physical activity. A regional Good Sports page lists a participation fee of $299 or below as a criterion (national criterion not confirmed).
Does not fund	No cash; no individuals, fundraisers, events, short-term camps/tournaments, school programming, tackle football.
Source	https://www.goodsports.org/community-organizations/
Also see	https://www.goodsports.org/info-portal/
Checked	2026-11-25

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7. Every Kid Sports

Funder	Every Kid Sports
Program	Every Kid Sports Pass (family-applied registration fee help)
Why it fits	national program; funds your needs: scholarships
Typical award	Up to $150 per qualifying child, paid toward registration
Deadline / cycle	Families apply; league must qualify
Eligibility	League: recreational, at least 4 weeks, under $500 per 3 months, not elite/travel, accepts card payments. Family: child 4-18 with active Medicaid, SNAP or WIC.
Does not fund	Out-of-pocket payments not reimbursed.
Source	https://apply.everykidsports.org/help/a/does-my-league-qualify-for-the-every-kid-sports-pass
Also see	https://pass.everykidsports.org/
Checked	2026-11-25

8. Red Sox Foundation

Funder	Red Sox Foundation
Program	$500 stipends for affiliated Little Leagues in New England
Why it fits	New England program; prioritizes baseball/softball; money can go to general league use; chartered Little League
Typical award	$500
Deadline / cycle	Offered in 2026 per the page; 2027 offer not yet confirmed
Eligibility	Little League-affiliated (chartered) leagues in the six New England states.
Source	https://www.redsoxfoundation.org/giving/
Checked	2026-11-25

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9. Ion Bank Foundation

Funder	Ion Bank Foundation
Program	Competitive grants (programs and capital needs)
Why it fits	serves Naugatuck; funds your needs: equipment, programs
Typical award	Not published on the guidelines page (unverified). Scale: 2024 Form 990-PF shows $990,922 in total grants paid. [UNVERIFIED or partial]
Deadline / cycle	2026 Rounds 1-3 closed (meetings Apr, Aug, Nov 2026); portal re-opens early 2027; decisions about 3 weeks after each deadline
Eligibility	501(c)(3), municipal entity, or religious org for nonsectarian projects; board of 3+ community members, majority not employees; must hold a CT Department of Consumer Protection charitable solicitation registration (or exemption). Priorities: affordable housing, community services (incl. education, child care), economic development, revitalization of distressed areas.
Does not fund	Sponsorship requests must NOT go through the grant portal (drop at a branch or email kbrochhausen@ionbank.com).
Funder size	IRS Form 990 tax year 2024: total assets $14,819,407; grants paid $990,922 (ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer: https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/061513293)
Source	https://ionbank.com/about-us/foundation/grant-guidelines/
Also see	https://ionbank.com/about-us/foundation/
Checked	2026-11-25

10. Connecticut Community Foundation

Funder	Connecticut Community Foundation
Program	Building Equitable Opportunity (competitive)
Why it fits	serves Naugatuck; funds your needs: programs, youth development
Typical award	Foundation-wide average grant $5,000-$15,000 (program-specific range not confirmed) [UNVERIFIED or partial]
Deadline / cycle	Fall 2026 deadline was Sept 15, 2026; no spring round; next opening to be announced
Eligibility	Same as Connecticut Community Foundation general guidelines.
Does not fund	Political or religious purposes; capital on buildings not owned by a nonprofit.
Funder size	IRS Form 990 tax year 2024: total assets $175,543,888 (ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer: https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/066038074)
Source	https://conncf.org/supporting-nonprofits/apply-for-a-grant/
Checked	2026-11-25

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11. MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation

Funder	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation
Program	Youth baseball/softball grants (fields, programs, equipment, education)
Why it fits	national program; prioritizes baseball/softball; funds your needs: equipment, field, programs, scholarships
Typical award	Not published (unverified) [UNVERIFIED or partial]
Deadline / cycle	Program page states the Foundation is currently NOT accepting applications; historically rolling Letters of Inquiry with quarterly board decisions
Eligibility	Programs that increase youth (20 and under) baseball/softball participation, especially minorities, girls and underserved communities.
Does not fund	No annual operating costs; no field/lighting capital unless 50% of funding is secured; travel teams only if serving low-income players.
Source	https://www.baseballydf.com/apply
Checked	2026-11-25 (via third-party summaries of the official page; official page not opened directly - unverified)

12. The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation

Funder	The DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation
Program	Sports Matter grants (invitation only)
Why it fits	national program; funds your needs: equipment, field, programs, scholarships; UNVERIFIED: ZIP poverty rate not retrieved
Typical award	Not published
Deadline / cycle	Invitation only; public step is joining the Sports Matter Community list
Eligibility	501(c)(3) running organized sport for youth 18 and under in a ZIP code with 15%+ poverty, or public/charter school with 50%+ free/reduced lunch. One grant per org per calendar year.
Does not fund	Pending 501(c)(3)s, 501(c)(4)/(c)(6)/(c)(19), religious orgs, private schools, playgrounds, fundraisers, e-sports.
Source	https://www.sportsmatter.org/s/grant-eligibility
Also see	https://dickssportinggoods.versaic.com/login
Checked	2026-11-25 (eligibility via search summaries of official pages)

Federal grants (Grants.gov)

We searched Grants.gov for open and forecasted opportunities open to 501(c)(3) nonprofits (keywords: "youth sports"). 37 results came back; 0 had titles relevant to your work.

None fit a local youth or school group. Federal grants usually go to towns, school districts and larger nonprofits; a partner town or district is the usual route.

Checked and ruled out

Funder / program	Why not
Connecticut Community Foundation - Grassroots Leadership	service area does not include Naugatuck

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Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation - 2026 Grant Cycle (three county phases)	service area does not include Naugatuck
Valley Community Foundation - Needs and Opportunities Grants	service area does not include Naugatuck
Valley Community Foundation - Valley Community Grants (civic engagement)	service area does not include Naugatuck
Valley Community Foundation - Valley Sponsorships (events)	service area does not include Naugatuck
Main Street Community Foundation - Competitive grant cycles (General Grant Cycle, town funds, Women & Girls, Men & Boys)	service area does not include Naugatuck
Main Street Community Foundation - Malerbo Children's Field Maintenance Fund	service area does not include Naugatuck

How this report was made

- Funders were matched on your town, organization type, sport and stated needs.

- Facts come only from public sources: funders' own websites and guidelines, Grants.gov, IRS Form 990 data via ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer, the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy community foundation directory, and US Census data when a Census API key is set.

- Nothing here is invented. If a funder does not publish an amount or date, the report says so and marks it unverified.

- Funders change rules often. Confirm details on the linked page before you apply. This report is research, not a guarantee of funding.

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