



## **URBAN LACROSSE ALLIANCE AFFILIATES PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

### **Why did US Lacrosse establish the Urban Lacrosse Alliance?**

There are several reasons for the formation of The Urban Lacrosse Alliance. There is an ever increasing need for more and closer communication. Perhaps most importantly, the Urban Lacrosse Alliance was created to support Program Administrators and their long-term learning objectives that are embedded in the grassroots. The ULA serves as a network and voice for people who directly support underrepresented youth in the lacrosse community and the ULA is committed to assisting our network of coaches and players to better advocate for underserved programs in our sport. We hope the development and exchange of best practices and strategies will allow for further success in each individual program and furthermore promote and support the development of additional new urban youth programs around the country.

Additionally, in order to reduce barriers to participation in underrepresented communities, US Lacrosse has created the ULA to support lacrosse teams or organizations seeking to expand existing program participation opportunities for underserved populations, particularly for urban youth. In our ongoing effort to make youth sports more affordable, the support provided by USL is designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their local lacrosse community. It is the mission of US Lacrosse to make participation in lacrosse available and affordable for all children. The ultimate goal of each ongoing partnership is to devote resources, education and support to increase the opportunities to bring more diverse participants into the sport of lacrosse.

### **Who is eligible to apply for the ULA?**

*Programs must:*

- Provide lacrosse participation opportunities in which a majority of the participants or intended recipients are urban or underrepresented youth.
- Provide life skills enrichment (tutoring, mentorship, college guidance, character education, nutrition education etc.).
- Demonstrate their ability to deliver lacrosse programming through experienced and committed leadership.



- Deliver a minimum 8-week lacrosse program with preference given to organizations working consistently with participants throughout the year.
- Be in existence for at least two years or season cycles.
- Commit to growing the game effectively and responsibly using US Lacrosse national standards and best practices.

*US Lacrosse is particularly interested in:*

- Organizations providing opportunities for active lacrosse participation in diverse communities.
- Organizations whose activities provide direct services to individuals and produce tangible results, rather than those that are policy oriented.
- Nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation
- The potential impact of the program/project and the number of people who will benefit.
- The organization's fiscal responsibility and management qualifications.
- The ability of an organization to obtain the necessary additional funding to implement a program or project and to provide ongoing funding and sustainability.
- Preference given, but not limited to, sports-based youth development programs.

## **What is required for affiliates to maintain their partnership status with US Lacrosse?**

*Annual Expectations of Urban Lacrosse Alliance members:*

- Demonstrate a continuous dedication to providing opportunities for active lacrosse participation in diverse communities.
- Program must demonstrate the impact of the program/project and the number of people who received direct benefits from their services.
- Program must demonstrate organization's fiscal responsibility and the ability of an organization to obtain ongoing funding and sustainability.
- Commit to growing the game effectively and responsibly using US Lacrosse national standards and best practices.
- If possible, request staff participation in meetings or other gatherings held by US Lacrosse.
- Fulfill affiliate requirements and expectations as requested – includes annual benefit selection and impact reporting along with program statistics, photos and updates upon request.
- Become representatives of US Lacrosse who support the mission of USL and our organization.



ULA Affiliates can lose status if they do not meet the expectations and requirements of US Lacrosse. USL will perform an annual review of each affiliates program.

## **How do I apply for the Urban Lacrosse Alliance Affiliates Program?**

All of the instructions listed below must be followed in order for your application to meet qualification standards when reviewed.

- Only one (1) application per organization is permitted. Organizations that serve both boys and girls teams may have flexible equipment options if deemed appropriate by US Lacrosse.
- Applicant must be 18 years of age.
- All information entered on this application form must be typed.
- All applications will be read and selected by the USL Grant Review Team.
- All applications must be submitted online. No faxed, e-mailed or handwritten application will be accepted.

## **If my team just started a youth program in an urban or underrepresented area, should I apply for First Stick or the Urban Lacrosse Alliance Affiliates program?**

If you are in need of full team equipment to sustain growth or development of your program, you should first apply for the [USL First Stick Program](#). The ULA provides equipment, but will not outfit a full team of participants. The ULA is intended to provide other areas of support in addition to equipment on an annual basis.

## **What does it mean to be a self-sustaining program?**

Creating a self-sustaining lacrosse program requires a great deal of commitment and resources. A self-sustaining program is one that demonstrates fiscal responsibility and management qualifications and proves an ongoing ability to obtain the necessary funding to fully support a program and/or project.

The intent of the Urban Lacrosse Alliance is to partner with programs that will ultimately be sustainable long-term and that will exhibit all of the national standards and best practices outlined by US Lacrosse.



## **Once a program receives an Urban Lacrosse Alliance Affiliates status, how do we receive the funding from US Lacrosse?**

Once a team or program is accepted into the ULA, the Program Administrator will receive a ULA program contract. As part of that contract the administrator is responsible for sending their preferred needs to US Lacrosse by the set deadline. All equipment will be shipped from USL to the address provided by the administrator. If the need request requires payment from USL to a third party or retailer, the administrator will need to request an invoice from the third party and send it directly to US Lacrosse. Upon receiving the invoice, the payment will be made (up to the maximum amount) directly to the indicated party. Confirmation of payment will then be sent to the Program Administrator.

## **How long can a program be a part of the Urban Lacrosse Alliance?**

Once a lacrosse team or program is accepted into the ULA, they become a standing affiliate partner with US Lacrosse. US Lacrosse will continue to provide ongoing annual benefits and resources for all affiliate groups as long as they continue to meet expectations and requirements of US Lacrosse.

## **Can current ULA programs apply to receive a National Diversity Grant?**

ULA programs are prohibited from applying for the National Diversity Grant Program. Programs that already receive funding from the Diversity and Inclusion Department cannot request additional funding through the grant program. ULA programs can apply for the First Stick Program.