

Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - FY 2026 Sports Envoy Program

External Link: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361680>

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0018007

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-04-13

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-26

Purpose: The Sports Envoy Program advances U.S. foreign policy and America First priorities by sending current and former American professional athletes and coaches overseas to promote cross-cultural understanding and showcase American excellence and leadership through sport. The program engages a wide variety of communities worldwide—often those difficult to reach through traditional diplomacy—by leading youth clinics, conducting community outreach, and fostering dialogue with local leaders. Through these people-to-people exchanges, the Sports Envoy Program builds trust and cultivates leadership, laying the groundwork for more stable, and prosperous societies while showcasing American excellence and leadership on the global stage.

Outreach and Promotion: The Sports Envoy Program is designed to achieve the following goals:

1. Advance U.S. foreign policy goals;
2. Showcase American excellence and leadership in sports;
3. Facilitate meaningful sports experiences between American athletes and international communities, promoting physical activity and sharing sports skills, as well as lessons in leadership, teamwork, and conflict resolution; and
4. Foster dialogue with government leaders and other U.S. embassy/consulate contacts that may be difficult to reach with traditional diplomacy.

The Sports Envoy Program is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Advance participant and beneficiary cross-cultural competence and global perspective
2. Strengthen engagement among participants, alumni, beneficiaries, and institutions
3. Strengthen personal, professional, and technical abilities and aptitudes of participants and beneficiaries

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/D2FNE12RA8TbTp7> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on pages 25-26, in the NOFO.
 - Quality of Program Idea & Program Planning

- Institutional Capacity Related to Sport and Travel
- Follow-on Activities and Multiplier Effect
- Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
- Media and Communication Strategy

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.