TO: Local Media

FROM: ReBecca Main, Public Health Programs Manager, Youth Bureau Director

RE: Cortland County Youth Bureau announces availability of Youth Development Programs and Youth Sports and Education Opportunity funding

DATE: 7/28/2023

The Cortland County Youth Bureau is offering funding to local organizations to enhance initiatives that benefit young people. Municipalities, Community Based Organizations, and Faith Based Organizations in Cortland County are invited to apply. **All programs must take place between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024.**

The Cortland County Youth Bureau supports and partially funds programs and initiatives that enable youth to build on their strengths. It supports programs that provide opportunities for youth to gain important life skills and core competencies, and that allow youth to have meaningful roles in their communities. **Youth development** initiatives benefit young people in their homes and neighborhoods, in schools, as well as in foster care and residential treatment. The goal is for all Cortland County Youth to reach their full potential and become healthy, productive adults.

The Youth Development Program (YDP) was established to encourage the County’s diverse communities to create local opportunities for positive youth development. YDP supports services that provide opportunities for positive youth development and help youth attain the developmental assets needed to grow up to be competent, caring and healthy adults. Youth is defined as an individual under 21 years of age.

To achieve the purpose of the Youth Development Program (YDP), programs must:

- Include involvement of youth in leadership and program planning activities, program implementation and evaluation
- Provide a range of youth in leadership and program planning activities, program implementation and evaluation
- Provide opportunities where young people feel supported and safe
- Focus on asset building by supporting:
  - Positive values
  - Social competencies
  - Positive Identity
  - Educational commitment
Cortland County Youth Bureau funding is provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The Cortland County Youth Bureau is seeking applicants to provide **sports programs** to underserved youth ages 6-17 via local nonprofit or municipal organizations. *The grants focus on supporting youth development via local nonprofit organizations and/or municipal-operated sports programs. All programs must take place between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024.*

**Funds can be used to cover:**
- Coaches/instructors/direct service staff/mentors
- Equipment
- Educational programming costs
- Facility/field and/or space cost
- Maximum of 15% of funds for administrative/overhead costs for the implementing agency only

**Programs Eligible must meet the following criteria:**
- Provide structured sports activities for youth ages 6-17
- Serve youth in New York State
- Demonstrate basic competency in the areas of governance, monitoring and evaluation, partnership and financial stewardship
- Have a child protection policy in place that includes adherence to local city, agency, school district and state child protection guidelines
- Collect registration data, including participant demographic information, as required by OCFS in a manner that allows for accurate reporting of anonymized aggregate data

All programs seeking funding must track outcome measures and provide data to the Youth Bureau.

Applications are available on the Cortland County website, by contacting the Youth Bureau at (607)758-5509 or by emailing rmain@cortland-co.org

**Deadline for submission of proposals is September 15, 2023.**