



February 2020

Dear Coaches and Managers:

As part of the Financial Aid budget, the Arlington Soccer Travel Program Committee oversees its "Matching Grant Program, which has been offered when possible to help teams with financial hardships and in extenuating circumstances. Some examples of bases for submitting an application include, but are not limited to:

- 1) covering the cost of a tournament entry fee
- 2) assistance in covering team fees or club fees for a player in need, or
- 3) assistance covering travel costs for teams.

The Matching Grant Program is designed to encourage teams in these circumstances to conduct fundraising activities and assists the teams by covering part of their team fees through a grant that matches their funds raised through the fundraising activities on a "dollar-for-dollar" basis (to the extent that program funds are available).

For the 2019-2020 year, the Arlington Soccer Travel Program Committee has allocated \$7,500 for the Matching Grant Program. The Travel Program Committee's Finance Sub-Committee, in conjunction with the overall Committee, will be responsible for the evaluation of the grant requests and the distribution of funds. **Any Arlington Soccer Travel Program coach or manager is welcome to submit a request.** We hope that many teams will take advantage of this opportunity. The timeline for submitting a grant request for the 2019-2020 soccer year is:

**Spring Season:** Request form due March 15 with funds currently expected to be distributed by March 31.

The first step in the Matching Grant process is to review the eligibility criteria below to determine if your team is eligible to submit a request. If you determine that your team is eligible and wish to submit an application, please complete this [Grant Request Form](#) and include any supplemental materials, such as documentation to verify the expense(s) your team is incurring. Completion of the Grant Request Form via the supplied link will constitute a successful submission. Each team may only submit one application per year. **(Teams may request any amount, provided they have proven a matched fundraised amount, but awards may be partially awarded based on available funds.)**

The Grant Request Form should include a detailed description why the grant money is being requested and how the team will benefit if the grant is awarded. In addition, please provide details regarding the fundraising efforts your team has undertaken to help offset team fees. Matching grant funds should be used to support an Arlington Soccer Travel Program Team in their efforts to develop technical skills, club pride, and love of the game, as well as mitigate the financial burden that sometimes accompanies travel soccer teams.

If there are more grant requests than available funds, some requests may be given partial awards. Teams will be notified within two-weeks after the grant request deadline, or as soon thereafter as possible. If your team is awarded a matching grant, the funds will be deposited directly into your team account at Arlington Soccer.

If you have any questions regarding the Matching Grant Program or grant process, please do not hesitate to reach our Grants Coordinator, Mark Churchill, via email at [markhunterchurchill@gmail.com](mailto:markhunterchurchill@gmail.com) or me at [marc.garufi@gmail.com](mailto:marc.garufi@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Marc Garufi  
Arlington Soccer Travel Program Committee

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Financial Hardship-** Team should have a demonstrated financial hardship. Examples include: multiple financial aid players, significant tournament and/or travel expenses, low roster count, large unexpected expenses that were not included on the initial team budget, etc.
- **Fundraising Efforts-** Team must demonstrate that players and families have put forth a good faith effort to raise funds to meet the team's financial burden. Examples include: multiple fundraising events, participation by a majority of players, etc.
- **Qualified Expenses-** Team must demonstrate that the grant funds being requested will be used to cover appropriate expenses. Examples include: tournament fees, player fees, coach/ team travel expenses, etc.
- **First Time Grant Request-** Teams are only allowed to submit one matching grant request form. In addition, teams that did not receive a grant in the preceding year will be given higher priority over teams that have previously received matching grants.