

# Expanding Access to Swim Education: A Grant Proposal for Subsidized Youth Aquatic Programs

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## Introduction

During this project, I developed and submitted a grant proposal requesting \$2,000 to support subsidized swim lessons and camp programming for youth in Humboldt County. The initiative addresses drowning prevention, health equity, and youth development by reducing financial barriers to participation. If funded, the program will serve 55 youth with subsidized swim lessons and swim camp positions. This project also highlights the grant-writing process and collaboration with the Sponsored Programs Office.

## Why Subsidized Swim Program Offerings Are Needed

- Humboldt County's proximity to oceans and rivers increases drowning risk
- Research shows that formal swim lessons can reduce the risk of drowning among young children by up to 88%, underscoring the importance of accessible instruction.
- Financial barriers limit access for low-income families

## Grant Development

- Identified community needs
- Designed program structure
- Researched community programs and the need for accessible swim lessons for low-income families in remote areas.
- Created a budget and subsidy plan
- Submitted through the Sponsored Programs Office



## Grant Overview

The grant proposal focuses on expanding access to aquatic programming through subsidized participation.

### Funding Request:

- Total Requested: \$2,000
- Purpose: Subsidies for swim lessons and camp + equipment support

### Program Reach:

- Swim Lessons: 111 participants (50 subsidized)
- Swim Camp: 80 participants (5 subsidized)
- Total Impact: 191 youth

### Subsidy Structure:

- 40 youth (infant/child): \$20 discount
- 10 adolescents: \$20 discount
- 5 camp participants: \$75 discount

### Eligibility:

- Low-income families (SNAP, free/reduced lunch, or equivalent)
- First-come, first-served distribution

### Outreach Strategies:

- Flyers distributed in schools, libraries, and community centers
- Partnerships with local nonprofits
- Campus and digital promotion (website and social media)

## Challenges Encountered

- Establishing contact with the appropriate staff at Sponsored Programs
- Misunderstanding how the grant budget process worked
- Separating the grant process from the larger program for project purposes

**Support received:** Guidance and feedback from Pia at Sponsored Programs helped clarify the budget process and improve my work and learning experience



## Results

Currently, the grant has been submitted and is under review. If approved, this grant will support participant subsidies and swim equipment, including adaptive equipment.

### What I learned

- Gained experience working with Sponsored Programs Office
- Learned how to build and adjust a grant budget
- Developed understanding of equity barriers in recreation access
- Recognized the strong impact of swim lessons on drowning prevention
- Learned the processes of developing a grant from start to finish

