

United Square Dancers of America

USDA Report

January 11, 2026

The winter meeting this year is in Knoxville, Tennessee, January 16-17, 2026.

See included information on a new youth dancing grant. USDA web address is www.committee.usda.org for the forms. This is not the USDA college grant, it is a new grant to provide funds to help with increasing the numbers of youth dancers.

But please do not forget the USDA college scholarship for \$2,500. Deadline is February 1, 2026.

Also the Centennial Award for those dancers who have reached their 100th birthday.

Forms can be found on the usda.org website.

Edythe Weber

Youth Dancing Grant Program

1. [Youth Grant Trifold - IS-015](#)
2. [Grant Application](#) (Print Form)
A. Fill On Line, Save & E-Mail or
B. Print, Fill, & Mail
3. [Grant Application](#) (E-Mail Form)
A. Fill On Line & Submit

How the Grant Program Will Operate:

When a club or Affiliate has a shortage of funds for a specific activity involving Youth, a request for a Grant to ASSIST in the shortfall may be sent to the USDA Youth Advisory Committee (www.Committee.usda.org). The Affiliate or Club agrees to use the funds as outlined in their request. Several examples of needs would be to help offset the costs for a group of Youth taking lessons (assisting their families), helping a group attending a State or National Convention with identified shortfalls, and help in identifying shortfalls while developing a Youth Program.

The Purpose of the Grant Program:

The Youth Dancing Grant Program was developed to Assist in the Involvement, Recruitment and Fostering of Youth Growth within the Square Dance Community. The Grant is funded by an outside source(s), but will rely on the USDA to Administer. The program will run each calendar year from January to January annually as long as there are funds available for the program.

The Application Process:

A Club or Affiliate will need to submit an application for a grant when they anticipate that they will have a shortfall financially for their Youth activity. The application, once received, will be reviewed and approved or denied within 30 days of receipt. The Grant is not a free pass, the requesting organization needs to show what they have done to offset the identified shortfall. The Grant funds will be dispersed in the following incremental amounts: \$250.00, \$500.00, \$750.00 and \$1,000.00 as deemed necessary, per the Grant request. The application will need to explain the shortfall, what the requestor has done to address the shortfall, what the funds will accomplish in offsetting the shortfall, and how many youth will be affected. There will be only one Grant per event, however an organization can apply for, and be considered for, any other grant needs that arise.

The Financial Process:

Once a Grant is approved, funds will be issued by the USDA Treasurer to the requesting organization. The requesting organization will be contacted for instructions on to whom to direct the funds.

In Addition:

Clubs are encouraged to submit suggestions that will help with the expansion of the Grant process. Helping Youth is the primary goal. For additional information about the Grant Program or any other USDA programs please visit our website www.usda.org.

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