

# Sample Concept Paper

## Uses for Document

- Clarifies and organizes ideas
- A pre-proposal (usually 2-4 pages) that describes idea, need for project, how project to be implemented, budget, etc.
- For foundations/organizations requesting a summary of project prior to authorizing submittal of full application

Name of Organization

Proposed Project

**Name of Program**

### **Community Need**

There are limited sports activities designed to include people with physical disabilities in \_\_\_\_\_ County. Some of the more successful activities include: wheelchair basketball clinics sponsored by BlazeSports - \_\_\_\_\_; the annual Easter Beach Run with a disability category sponsored by the \_\_\_\_\_; 2005 Invacare Days Sports Clinic for people with disabilities sponsored by Invacare Corp.; and the 2003 Wheelchair Clay Court Tennis Tournament, sponsored by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Though these events are primarily targeted to people of all ages, most of the participants are adults.

The community is poised to introduce more sporting opportunities to children with the goal that they will be able to enjoy the benefits for a lifetime. Our proposal for \_\_\_\_\_ program will expose young at-risk children and children with physical challenges as well as able-bodied children to tennis in a supportive and friendly and environment.

### **Noteworthy Facts**

It is well documented that compared to their non-disabled peers, children with disabilities experience a higher incidence of non-disability related health problems such as obesity, heart disease, and depression (Healthy People, 2010), more often report feelings of isolation and social withdrawal, and participate in organized sports to a much lesser degree (5% vs. 95%).

### **Community Partners**

\_\_\_\_\_ is partnering with some distinguished organizations committed to supporting full participation in recreation and sports, affording young children with disabilities the same recreation choices and opportunities as their community peers. Partners include:

USA Tennis Florida;  
Local community tennis associations;  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Schools;  
BlazeSports, USA;  
Invacare;  
City of \_\_\_\_\_ Leisure Services Department  
\_\_\_\_\_ County Leisure Services Department  
City of \_\_\_\_\_ Leisure Services Department  
The Boys and Girls Club

## **Targeted Population**

Children who are mobility-impaired and able-bodied children, ages 6-12 who want to experience and learn the game of tennis.

## **Vision**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Program introduces the targeted children to the game of tennis through the Ralleyball format of USA Team Tennis. This beginner friendly format is designed to engage grade school students in tennis as a team sport while having fun with their friends and learning basic skills, and serves as an option to the more traditional recreational activities of football, soccer, basketball and baseball. The philosophy of USA Team Tennis' Ralleyball Format is the same for those with and without disabilities: *fun, fitness and friends in an environment that stresses sportsmanship and socialization in a team tennis atmosphere.*

## **Program Model**

We envision developing a program targeting up to 24 children with and without disabilities, ages 6-12. The \_\_\_\_\_ Program will have four main components.

### 1) The development of \_\_\_\_\_ as part of the USA Team Tennis Program.

During fall, 2005, organizers will identify and recruit participants, form the league teams, and recruit volunteer coaches. \_\_\_\_\_ will teach tennis using the Ralleyball Format; players will participate in a one-hour practice and a one-hour match each week. The league will consist of two back to back six-week sessions, playing intramural-like games in a round robin team against team format, with the goal of integrating into the existing USA Team Tennis Program in the fall of 2006. The Game-Based Approach as described by the USTA allows children to learn tennis by playing a modified game, discovering what they need to do, teaching the skills and practicing the skills in another game.

### 2) World-Class Professional Resources

A retired two-time Paralympic wheelchair tennis player and certificated teaching professional, \_\_\_\_\_, who resides in \_\_\_\_\_ County, will serve in an advisory role, helping tennis professionals and volunteer coaches adapt tennis drills for those with disabilities. She will also serve individuals as a resource for additional training.

### 3) USA School Tennis Program

\_\_\_\_\_ and the adult wheelchair tennis players under her tutelage will be part of the USA School Tennis Program which brings tennis to school students through their physical education classes. Initially, \_\_\_\_\_ and other mentors will visit the schools attended by those students enrolled in the \_\_\_\_\_ program, to demonstrate wheelchair tennis, emphasizing

tennis as a life-long sport and one that can be enjoyed by physically challenged and able-bodied together equally.

4) Sports Equipment Loan Closet

To ensure that the lack of appropriate equipment is not a barrier for prospective participants, \_\_\_\_\_ will expand its current equipment loan closet to include sports equipment. The first items sought will be new and used child-size sports wheelchairs. If the grant is awarded, USA Tennis Florida has committed to a start-up grant to purchase tennis racquets.

**Program Objectives**

1) 80% of participants will complete two six-week sessions of the \_\_\_\_\_ Program by fall 2006.

2) All participants will demonstrate at least a basic knowledge of the rules, court etiquette and sportsmanship by the end of the first session.

3) 90% of participants will be able to rally the ball over the net at least three consecutive times by the end of the second session.

4) 25% of participants who complete the \_\_\_\_\_ Program will integrate into the existing USA Team Tennis Program.

5) \_\_\_\_\_ will enhance its Equipment Loan Program to include sports wheelchairs by January, 2006.

**Budget**

The budget of approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ includes an initial purchase of \_\_\_ children's sports wheelchairs; equipment storage; scholarships for families needing financial assistance; stipends for teaching professionals; maintenance of wheelchairs; and marketing for the program.

**Volunteers**

Volunteers will serve as team coaches, keep score at the Ralleyball matches, help with the end-of-season celebration party and serve as ambassadors to promote the program. USA Tennis will provide all volunteer training.

## **Summary**

With the resource of USA Tennis Florida right here in our own backyard...with local world-class wheelchair tennis athletes to serve as coaches and role models...with

community recreation programs looking to serve more at –risk children and children with physical disabilities...with Invacare and BlazeSports, USA committed to meeting the needs of physically-challenged athletes...it is the right time for \_\_\_\_\_, as the recognized leader in the field of disability- related issues and with the mission of maximizing the independence of people with disabilities, to seek funding from a *Full Participation in Recreation and Sports* grant funded by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF). Together, \_\_\_\_\_ and our collaborating partners will develop the \_\_\_\_\_ Program and inspire youngsters of all abilities to play and enjoy the lifelong game of tennis.