

USTA Facility Assistance Process Overview

To be eligible for a financial investment in your project from the USTA, all technical aspects of the project must be approved by our engineers before work begins on the facility. We will go back and forth with written comments/recommendations that need to be addressed by you, (the client) in writing. It may be necessary for the client to obtain updated contractor proposals or engineered detail drawings depending upon the breadth of your project, in order to meet USTA and tennis industry standards. This is considered our technical review phase and can take several months to complete.

A complete rebuild and/or new construction requires engineered detail/construction drawings. This requires the assistance of a local engineer. Without these, there are no real guidelines for the contractor to follow. Our review and recommendations ensure the facility will be built correctly and to industry standards as written by ASBA and USTA in ***Tennis Courts: A Construction and Maintenance Manual***. A complimentary copy is available to all facility assistance clients.

A resurfacing project does not require detailed construction drawings, however it requires that the contractor tell us and the client in detail how they will perform the work so we can all be assured that the work meets tennis industry standards, and that the client and USTA's investments are protected. Without this information there are no assurances that the project will be completed properly.

We need to review the above items relevant to either repair and/or construction methods before we will invest in a project to be certain the longevity and integrity of the facility is protected. We work with contractors and engineers to protect our clients/grantees. Once the technical review is completed, and if the project is approved by our engineers, we will release a funding application. The technical review process prepares clients to complete and submit the funding application. It is recommended that all client

correspondence and requested documents and photos be kept in a file that can be easily accessed by the client if/when a funding application is released.

The funding application looks at a variety of issues but the most important consideration is how well the courts are programmed. The courts must be open to the public, some and/or all of the courts must be lined for 36' and 60' tennis, and the courts need to be programmed for all ages to play tennis. We look for a robust program including 10 and under lessons as well as Junior Team Tennis, adult lessons and USTA adult/senior leagues using the courts.

The USTA does not provide funding for facilities with courts that do not have 36' and 60' lines used by youth, beginner, adaptive, senior, and POP Tennis players. The USTA supports what the ITF (International Tennis Federation) sanctions. ITF rules do not allow pickle ball, basketball, or any other sport lines on a tennis court surface. Therefore, we cannot fund courts painted with lines other than those sanctioned for tennis. Tennis played on smaller courts with modified racquets and balls is becoming increasingly popular. The USTA has painted well over 10,000 courts with 36' and 60' lines for this purpose, and in addition to red, orange and green ball tennis, we encourage all communities to explore POPTennis.com so they can offer tennis programming on smaller courts for all sectors of their community.

The funding application also asks for information on how the project will be funded. The USTA will not make a funding decision until the majority of funds to pay for the project are in place. Once our funding decision is made the facility has 18 months to complete the project. After this time, the grant funds may be forfeited. Please note that USTA Facility Assistance grants are very competitive and very few facilities meet the criteria for full funding.

Commencing with construction or bidding out the project before our technical review has been completed and a funding application has been released, will jeopardize any potential funding. The process can take several months or longer, so this should be calculated into the project timeline. Your USTA Facility Consultant will walk you through all phases of the Facility Assistance Process.