



Request for Proposals

Title: Centers of Excellence

Description: In order to support the growth of professional private efforts and to enhance cycling development in this country, the USA Cycling Development Foundation (USACDF) requests proposals for the 2006 Centers of Excellence grant program. This program is aimed at identifying and rewarding those athlete development programs and clubs around the country that adhere to an effective model, which focuses on the development of athletic talent in cycling.

Through its Centers of Excellence Program, USACDF builds partnerships with top U.S. clubs and programs, and rewards their successful, sustainable, business models. Together the USACDF and Centers of Excellence around the country set the standard for cycling athlete development in the U.S., thus enhancing the development pipeline and providing more opportunities for athletes, coaches, and other cycling support personnel in the world of bike racing.

Due Date: December 15, 2006

Evaluation Criteria for Award:

To qualify for consideration as a USA Cycling Development Foundation Center of Excellence, the prospective Club/Team/Program must meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1) The Center of Excellence (COE) must have clear Vision/Mission/Goals/Objectives, statement that highlights cycling community involvement, professional coaching development and athlete development as clear objectives.
- 2) The COE must support a complete athlete "pipeline" with junior and development level programs in addition to elite programs. All levels of the pipeline should be integrated seamlessly. Ideally each level of program should lead logically to the next.
- 3) The COE must have a corporate structure in place, with an active board of directors, business plan and a history of active involvement with USA Cycling (the successful applicant with a not-for-profit I.R.S. 501(c)(3) designation may be given funding preference).
- 4) The COE must have a paid Head Coach with the following qualifications:
 - a) Current USA Cycling Expert level or higher certification
 - b) Participates in the annual USAC COE national meeting
 - c) Attends USAC National Championships with qualified athletes
 - d) Participates in USA Cycling athlete development, sports science, coaching and sport development projects.
 - e) Has a sustained history of placing riders on national teams.
- 5) The program must have at least one Assistant Coach (paid or volunteer) with the following qualifications:
 - a) Holds current USA Cycling Club level certification or higher.
 - b) Travels with athletes to at least 4 regional events each year.
- 6) The COE must maintain an Apprentice Coach program designed to provide volunteer coaches with the opportunity to work with paid coaches in a mentoring environment.
- 7) The COE must have at least one Head Mechanic (paid or volunteer – USAC Mechanic Certification is highly encouraged).

- 8) The COE must have at least one Assistant Mechanic (paid or volunteer).
- 9) The COE must maintain current USAC Club licensing and/or USAC Coach's licensing for all coaches involved.
- 10) All COE program members/employees should hold a current USAC license.
- 11) The COE must support USAC Athlete development programs with integrated schedule planning and national team coach cooperation/coordination. This includes setting regional and national development camps, national team qualifiers, and pre-world's prep camps as potential athlete markers, as well as producing an integrated yearly program calendar which coincides with USAC athlete development programs, camps and events.

Proposal to Include:

All proposals should include a clear statement of goals, both annual and long-term, which outline the vision and mission of the organization. This statement should include local, regional and national objectives for athlete development as well as competitive and professional markers for both athletes and coaches.

Each applicant must provide information on the organization board of directors, staff, coaches and athletes. This information should include the total number of athlete and staff participants, USAC license numbers for all members and brief top athlete and coach biographies.

A program description and schedules of operation should be included. This description should detail the organization activities, training and race schedules, and markers or goals for its athletes and staff. Also included in this section would be the annual budget, year to date expenditures and projected income/loss.

Funding Organization:

Funding for the Centers of Excellence grants is provided by the member/donors of the USA Cycling Development Foundation.

Foundation Contact:

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Award Amounts:

In 2006, a minimum of 4 awards ranging from \$500 - \$5,000 will be made by December 22.