

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

Youth Dancing Funding Proposal

June 25, 2024

Shreveport, Louisiana

The United Square Dancers of America, Inc, (USDA) an IRS recognized Charitable Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, has been approached by a generous donor who has a strong commitment to provide continued financial support for Youth Square Dancing. This proposal includes providing at least \$5,000 to USDA each year for the purpose of:

- Encouraging and supporting the growth of youth square dancing through providing financial support for lessons, workshops, festivals, and other dancing related activities
- Making effective use of funds by giving priority to those groups most in need of services.
- To spread the awards across a wide variety of recipients geographically and setting (urban/small town/rural).
- Youth Square and Round Dance entry-level classes for youth clubs and family clubs. A family club encourages whole families to dance together and is at least 50% youth dancers.
- Marketing of Youth and Family Dance organization, both generally and for classes
- Logistical support for taking youth dancers to Festivals or Conventions.
- Supporting youth dance halls at Festivals or Conventions.

The USDA Youth Dancing Funding Program is to be administered by the USDA Youth Advisory Committee in accordance with a mutually acceptable agreement between USDA and the donor(s). The Youth Dancing Funding Program will function independently from the USDA Youth Scholarship Program. The USDA Youth Advisory Committee, in conjunction with the USDA Executive Committee, will evaluate Youth Grant applications based on their benefit to Youth Square Dancing.

Examples of Youth Dancing Grants could include, but not limited to:

- A family of five (3 youth) enrolls for regular square dance lessons. It can be expensive to pay for the whole family. A grant could offset some or all the lesson costs for the youth.
- A Youth Club wants to attend the State Festival or Convention; a Youth Grant could potentially offset the cost of bus and lodging for the Youth Club.
- A Youth or Family Club wants to improve their social media presence with a youth-oriented website or Facebook page to help attract more students for a Youth class.

The USDA Youth Advisory Committee will provide the donor(s) with semi-annual reports as to the status of the USDA Youth Grant Program to include:

- Remaining balance of the fund
- An itemized listing of the use of the donated funds – 100% of all donated funds are to be distributed to groups promoting Youth Square Dancing – USDA, as the administrator of the USDA Youth Funding Program, will not be reimbursed for any administrative costs associated with the Youth Funding Program.

While initial donor funding is anticipated at \$5,000 annually, additional charitable, tax-deductible donations are encouraged from anyone.

Applicants will be required to complete the United Square Dancers of America's Youth Dancing Funding Program.

Grants will typically be awarded on a tier basis:

\$0-\$250; \$250-\$500; \$500-\$1,000, subject to availability of funding.