

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Social Impact Planning | FIFA World Cup 26™

Philadelphia Soccer 2026 (PS2026) is the Local Host Committee charged with planning and executing FIFA World Cup 26™ (FWC2026) in coordination with the City of Philadelphia. Established in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, PS2026 is a 501(c)(3) organization governed by a Board of Directors, which is fully committed to delivering on FIFA's goal of making FWC2026 the most diverse and inclusive global sporting celebrations ever.

For all 16 Host Cities, issues of social impact – or as FIFA terms it Human Rights – have been integrated into our planning for FWC2026 dating back to our respective bidding efforts. Adhering to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Human Rights (UNGP) and aligning with FIFA's Human Rights Policy, Philadelphia Soccer 2026's organizational approach to this work has focused on inclusion and safeguarding, workers' rights, and access to remedy. Meaningful and consistent engagement with local, regional and national stakeholders has informed these efforts since 2020 and will continue to do so through the tournament. These stakeholders include but are not limited to local human rights and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, civil society groups, organized labor, elected officials, first responders, and other relevant authorities connected to FWC2026 and its social impact.

As local organizing committees, however, we understand our role in this work but more importantly, we recognize and deeply respect the local experts, advocates, and organizations that implement this critical work every day within our communities. To ensure maximum social impact for FIFA World Cup 2026™ in Philadelphia, we have chosen to engage with these local experts, advocates, and organizations to align on our social impact priorities and to amplify and integrate their established resources into planning. This approach affirms our commitment to social impact but acknowledges our limitations as local organizing committees.

Stakeholder and social impact engagement includes but are not limited to:

- Fostering inclusive participation throughout Philadelphia and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prioritizing diverse communities and marginalized groups. Our work includes, but is not limited to:
  - Developing a readily accessible [Vendor Interest Form](#) for small, diverse and local business opportunities.
  - Creating the Philadelphia Soccer 2026 Rising Stars Academy
    - This is a professional development initiative, powered by Philadelphia Soccer 2026, which empowers and supports emerging talent from a variety of backgrounds by offering unique experiential learning opportunities that merge passion, purpose and community engagement.
  - Partnering with the U.S. Soccer Foundation on a \$2 million investment in Commonwealth-wide youth soccer initiatives designed to increase accessibility and inclusion.
  - Participating in community volunteerism opportunities to address:
    - Neighborhood improvement and beautification
    - Food insecurity
    - Youth and adults with special needs
    - Next-gen workforce development

- Military veterans
- Supporting policy and legislative initiatives in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and City of Philadelphia to prevent human trafficking.
  - Collaborating further on human trafficking awareness campaigns with elected officials, leaders from priority industries, and applicable advocacy organizations.
- Driving the FWC26 long-term legacy forward, in partnership with the City of Philadelphia, at Lemon Hill Park, the location of PS2026's Fan Festival by supporting critical infrastructural improvements, including:
  - Construction of new accessible routes in the park
  - Installation of:
    - 12 new ADA-compliant ramps, enhancing accessibility for visitors
    - Sidewalks
    - Improvements to fiber, Wi-Fi, water
  - Removal of dilapidated structures and invasive species
  - Minor topographical grading
- Reducing economic barriers to participation in FWC26 by ensuring our 39-day FIFA Fan Festival is free of cost to enter for all fans.
- Aligning with government partners, public/private organizations, and local vendors to promote sustainability and mitigate adverse environmental impacts.
- Adhering to all city/state/federal laws and policies, along with connectivity to relevant agencies and applicable organizations, for:
  - Public safety
  - Freedom of assembly, expression and the press
  - Unsheltered populations
  - Workers' rights
  - Access to remedy

FIFA World Cup 2026™ provides a powerful platform for Host Cities to support, elevate, and accelerate social impact work in our communities. Hosting this event does not begin this work nor will it end it. We stand together as Host Cities in our shared commitment to driving social impact initiatives that benefit our respective communities today, through the tournament, and for decades to come.

Through proactive partnerships, inclusive planning, and rights-based governance as detailed in this Executive Summary, Philadelphia Soccer 2026 continues to work toward delivering a World Cup that not only celebrates sport but strengthens community, protects human dignity, and leaves a lasting positive legacy for the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.