



# CRE

## CREation Funding Guide: Shared Struggle and Solidarity

### Funding Summary

CREation is a multi-level funding program that will support strengths-based, community-focused and youth-led projects taking place in communities across Canada. Grassroots and incorporated youth groups/collectives are eligible to apply for funding to support community programs and projects, while receiving innovative mentorship, training and capacity-building opportunities. **Funding of up to \$25,000 will be provided to projects/groups that seek to create impactful community change and increase the wellness, resiliency and engagement of youth.**

The Shared Struggle and Solidarity Stream aims to strengthen solidarity between BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) youth and provide relationship-building opportunities. Projects in this stream will need to engage at least two groups, one of which must be Indigenous. Projects can be up to 12 months in length. Projects must be led by 3-4 youth that represent the communities they will be working with.

### Group Leaders and Project Reach

The focus of this funding stream is to bring together BIPOC youth. Successful projects must bring together **Indigenous youth from Canada (First Nation, Inuit, Metis and Afro-Indigenous youth) and Black and/or POC youth.**

A minimum of three youth must be identified at the application phase as project leaders ( however, projects can have 4+ leaders if needed). In addition, two youth of the group leaders must be Indigenous to Canada. Projects need to focus on representing the identities held by the youth leaders.

### Project Focus Areas

The intention between this stream is to provide youth opportunities to collectively grow, create, heal and cause change. Successful projects will fall under one or more of the following areas:

#### Sharing Knowledge and Culture

Projects that focus on building community between diverse groups through the sharing of knowledge and culture as a pathway to relationship building. Activities should be focused on both groups sharing their culture and community. Activities could include the following activities: storytelling, dance workshops, cooking workshops, feasts and gatherings, arts workshops, recreation/games and other activities.

#### Learning History and Lived Realities

Projects will bring together youth to learn about each other's history, lived reality, barriers and resilience. This can take the form of sharing circles, speaker series, gatherings, workshops/sessions, etc. The focus in this area is on helping youth to understand each other better and to build an understanding of



the differences and similarities between groups.

### **Reclaiming and Rebuilding**

Projects will focus on giving youth the tools to address systemic and community barriers they face through skill building sessions and programming around mobilization, organizing and advocacy. Activities can include spaces where youth learn skills around lifting each others voices, building allyship, advocating for change, bringing together community and collectively visioning a more equitable future landscape.

### **Changing Systems**

Projects will focus on creating system-level and community-level change, including creating safe(r) pathways in system navigation, disruption and dismantling oppressive systems and taking tangible steps toward making organizations and community spaces more accessible to BIPOC youth. Examples of a Changing System Project could include bringing youth together to create better pathways in accessing employment or education services; providing training and advocacy around equitable health care access, etc.

## **Eligibility**

CREation will only fund projects with a minimum of 3 youth leaders.

**Please note: for the purpose of this program, CRE defines Indigenous as status and non-status First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada, living both on and off reserve.**

Eligible groups and projects include:

- Unincorporated/grassroots youth groups/collectives/councils comprised primarily of Indigenous youth
- Small, incorporated youth groups (note: CRE defines a small organization as groups that have 1-8 full time employees and an operating budget of less than \$500,000)
- Projects must focus on bringing together two diverse groups, one of which must be Indigenous
- Project leadership must have at least 2 Indigenous youth, and be representative of the communities the project is bringing together.

Ineligible groups and projects:

- Individuals
- Projects that are not youth-led (or where the majority of leadership is 30+)
- Projects taking place outside of Canada
- For profit corporations

## **Ineligible Expenses**

CRE will NOT fund projects that are political in nature, or that involve distributing substances (i.e. alcohol, non-traditional tobacco, marijuana, illicit substances, etc).



## Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a Community Grants Committee that includes community members, program staff and CRE staff. All members will have experience running programs and initiatives, overseeing projects and offering community supports. A minimum of 75% of the Review Circle will be youth and all reviewers will be BIPOC community members.

## Capacity Building

All funded groups will be required to take part in online training/skills development workshops on managing, facilitating, evaluating, and reporting on programs. There will be orientation sessions for all new grantees. All grantees will be assigned a CRE staff member and will have individual meetings with this staff member throughout the project.

## Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be asked to report twice on their projects.

**Midterm Check In (4 months into project):** Grantees will meet digitally with a CREation staff to talk through challenges and successes. Grantees will share updates on budget spending, completed activities and youth reach.

**Final Report (2 months after project completion):** Grantees will submit a budget report and an evaluation report. Grantees will receive a copy of the evaluation report within the first month of their project start date.

**Grantees will have to collect data as a part of their reporting.**

## Financial Oversight and Trusteeship

Groups/councils/collectives with members who are over the age of 18 do not require an external funding administrator and, if successful, will receive the grant funds directly.

Successful applicant groups (with leaders aged 15-17) will require a local non-profit or trusted community member over age 18 to serve as their grant trustee. This trustee may be someone the applicants are already familiar with or CRE can support in connecting them with a willing organization or community member as well as with creating a trustee agreement that ensures youth will be supported.

## Release of Funds

**CRE does not issue cheques.** Funding will be sent to grantees via a Plooto bank transfer/direct deposit.



## Timelines

<b>Stages</b>	<b>Application Period</b>
<b>Applications Open</b>	November 23rd, 2021
<b>Application Deadline</b>	January 4th, 2022
<b>Decisions Released</b>	February 17th, 2022
<b>Project Start Date</b>	March 14th, 2022
<b>Project End Date</b>	March 14th, 2023
<b>Final Report Due</b>	May 14th, 2023

## Questions

CRE encourages applicants to reach out if they have any questions. Please email [creation@canadianroots.ca](mailto:creation@canadianroots.ca) to speak to a member of the team.