



CREation Funding Guide: Youth Empowerment Stream - Blossom

Project 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. Funding is dispersed through themed streams, which focus on specific funding gaps and needs in communities.

The Youth Empowerment Stream - Blossom will provide small grants of up to \$5,000 to youth-led projects happening in urban, rural and remote communities across Canada. The focus of this stream is to give funds to support emerging micro-projects that focus on increasing the resilience, engagement and wellness of youth. There are two ways to enter the *Blossom* stream:

Pathway One: Applicants who have received funding in either the *Youth Empowerment - Sprout* stream, the general *Youth Empowerment Stream* or through the *Community Support Fund*, can apply to expand and grow their project. Your group fits this criteria if they have received funding from CRE before, but the total amount of funding received was less than \$10,000.

Pathway Two: Applicants who do not meet the Pathway One criteria can apply as long as they meet the following criteria:

1. Group has not received any funding from CRE;
2. Group has an annual operating budget of \$50,000 or less; and
3. Group and/or project is a new and emerging initiative.

CRE strongly encourages applicants to start in the Spout phase with a new idea and then grow into the Blossom phase. CRE will only fund new and emerging groups in Youth Empowerment Streams. Projects must be led by 2+ Indigenous youth (ages 15-29). Grantees and youth will receive innovative mentorship, training and capacity-building opportunities throughout the project.

Project Focus Areas

Projects should focus on providing programming, training or capacity building opportunities for Indigenous youth. Below are some possible examples of eligible projects. These examples do not include every type of project that we would fund.

- Programs for youth to participate in recreational, wellness and/or arts-based programming
- Cultural programming, including ceremonies, teaching circles and land-based activities
- Peer-led circles where youth can build relationships and participate in online activities
- Intergenerational programs, that provide youth opportunities to work with Elders, parents, families, children, etc
- Programs that increase youth leadership skills
- Professional development programs for members of a youth council/organization to increase their knowledge about organizational governance
- Projects that target making resources (such as mental health services) safer and more accessible

All funded projects engage more youth other than just project leaders.

Eligibility

CREation will only fund grassroots Indigenous youth groups consisting of a minimum of 2 youth.

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
- Emerging, incorporated youth groups (note: CRE defines “emerging” as groups that have an operating budget of less than \$50,000)
- Projects must serve primarily serve Indigenous youth

Ineligible groups and projects:

- Individuals and/or projects that are not led by 2+ Indigenous youth
- Projects that are not youth-led (or where the majority of leadership is 30+)
- Non-Indigenous groups and organizations
- Groups that have received more than \$10,000 in funding from CRE over the past 12 months
- 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).

Project leaders cannot receive honorariums of more than \$500.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a 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 committee will be Indigenous, and 50% will be youth.

Capacity Building

Youth will be invited to participate in CRE’s Capacity Building Program. This program is geared towards strengthening skill sets around program administration, facilitation, evaluation as well as providing opportunities to learn about program design, organizational governance and growth, personal development and youth leadership. Youth will have the opportunity to work toward a certificate in the program.

Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be asked to submit one report:

Final Report (2 month 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.

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. Grantees will receive funds within two weeks of submitting a signed funding agreement.

Timelines

Stages	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Applications Open	June 1, 2021	October 4, 2021	December 1 2021
Application Deadline	June 30, 2021	November 1, 2021	January 6, 2022
Decisions Released	August 11, 2021	December 17 , 2021	February 17, 2022
Project Start Date	August 11, 2021	January 10, 2021	February 17, 2022
Project End Date	Nov 11, 2021	May 11, 2022	June 17, 2022
Final Report Due	January 11, 2022	July 11, 2022	August 17th, 2022

Unless otherwise noted, all deadlines are 6:00pm CST

Questions

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