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YOUTH ROOTS**

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Creation Funding Guide: Youth Empowerment Stream

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 will provide small grants from \$2,500 - \$5000 to youth-led projects happening in urban, rural and remote communities across Canada. The focus of this stream is to fund new and emerging micro-projects that focus on increasing the resilience, engagement and wellness of youth. Projects must be led by 2+ Indigenous youth (ages 15-29). Youth leaders (grantees) will receive innovative mentorship, training and capacity-building opportunities throughout the project. The Youth Empowerment Stream can be used as a steppingstone to implement a new idea or start your work with a project idea.

Funding Stream Priorities

There is a priority in this stream to support:

- New and emerging Indigenous youth-led grassroots groups and collectives
- Projects that are testing and/or trying a new idea
- New groups who have never run a project before
- Groups who have never received funding from Creation before

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





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- 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

Funding in this stream will only fund grassroots Indigenous youth groups consisting of a minimum of 2 youth.

Please note: for the purpose of this program, IYR 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
- 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 IYR over the past 12 months
- Projects taking place outside of Canada
- For profit corporations
- Groups with an organizational budget of over \$250,000

Ineligible Expenses

IYR will NOT fund projects that are political in nature, or that involve distributing substances (i.e. alcohol, non-traditional tobacco, marijuana, illicit substances, etc). IYR will also not fund projects or activities that are taking place outside of Canada.

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





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Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by an Indigenous Youth Review Circle that includes Advisory Circle members and other Indigenous youth outside of the Advisory Circle. All members will have experience running programs and initiatives, overseeing projects, and offering community support

Capacity Building

Youth will be invited to participate in IYR'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.

Reporting and Evaluation

Grantees will be asked to submit one report:

Final Report (1 month after project completion): Grantees will submit an evaluation report that will include reporting on the final budget (how much money you spent), data on the number of participants reached in your project, data on time spent on the project and a narrative report on the project. The final report will likely take 3 – 7 hours to complete. 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 a trustee 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 IYR 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.

You can view IYR's definition of Trustee >>[HERE](#)<<





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Release of Funds

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

Timelines

| Stages | Spring Intake |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Applications Open | March 1, 2025 |
| Application Deadline | March 31, 2025 |
| Decisions Released | May 30, 2025 |
| Project Start Date | June 1, 2025 |
| Project End Date | October 1st, 2025 |
| Final Report Due | December 1, 2025 |

Unless otherwise noted, all deadlines are 11:59pm PST

Questions

IYR encourages applicants to reach out if they have any questions. Please email MLadouceur@indigenouslyouthroots.ca to speak to a member of the team.

