



Social Planning Council of Ottawa

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Grant Guideline: Youth Leadership for Change

1. Purpose and Objectives

Youth Leadership For Change is a project that aims to build a culture of service and volunteering among racialized youth in Ottawa aged 15-30, with activities that strengthen youth resilience, build an inclusive Canada, and promote civic engagement.

The Canada Service Corps (CSC), through the Social Planning Council of Ottawa (SPCO), is providing funding to youth in the form of micro-grants to take ownership of an issue that is important to them, propose a solution, and implement it at the local community level, while developing their leadership, budgeting, and planning skills.

The Youth Leadership for Change Grant aims to empower youth-led groups to lead impactful projects that focus on one or more of the following objectives:

- Foster volunteerism, leadership, and advocacy among youth aged 15-30.
- Address systemic challenges such as equity, inclusion, anti-discrimination, and resilience.
- Enhance community safety, particularly in high-priority neighborhoods and communities with elevated safety risks.
- Promote mental wellness, social inclusion, and civic engagement.
- Provide opportunities for youth to influence policies, address barriers, and lead solutions to community challenges.
- Strengthen connections between youth, schools, grassroots organizations, and communities.

2. Eligible Applicants

The grant is exclusively for youth-led groups that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- **Youth Leadership:** Projects must be designed, led, and executed by youth aged 15-30. Significant decision-making must rest with the youth leaders.



- **Nonprofit Focus:** Applicants can be registered nonprofit organizations or grassroots collectives designed, led, and executed by youth aged 15-30.
- **Group Focused:** Solo projects are not eligible. Youth are encouraged to form a group where all participants play an active role in the project and apply as a group.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Youth groups aged 15-30 in partnerships with schools, community centers, or local organizations may be eligible. However, significant decision-making must rest with the youth leaders. The application should also be submitted by the youth group.

3. Ineligible Applicants

The following are ineligible applicants for funding:

- **Religious Organizations:** While faith-based organizations can be valuable contributors to communities, this grant does not fund projects that promote religious teachings, proselytization, or activities with a primary focus on advancing religious ideologies. However, religious organizations with youth-led projects that are entirely and independently youth-led and community-focused may still be eligible.
- **Mainstream Nonprofit or Charity Organizations:** Larger, well-established nonprofits or charities are ineligible. However, organizations with youth-led projects that are entirely and independently youth-led and community-focused may still be eligible. The focus is on supporting community groups and grassroots or emerging youth-led groups with limited resources.
- **Organizations Outside the Geographic Focus Area:** Groups located outside the Ottawa area without direct benefits to Ottawa communities are not eligible.
- **Sports Clubs:** Traditional sports teams or clubs focused solely on competitive sports are ineligible.
- **Political Parties or Lobbying Organizations:** Groups or projects that involve partisan activities or advocacy focused solely on political lobbying are ineligible.
- **For-Profit Entities:** Individuals or businesses without nonprofit partnerships cannot apply.

4. Grant Priorities

Funding will be prioritized for projects addressing one or more of the following priorities:

1. Community Empowerment and Resilience:



- Projects fostering stronger community ties and building inclusive, supportive environments.
- Initiatives aimed at reducing isolation and promoting collaboration among diverse groups.
- Programs addressing bullying, harassment, or gender-based violence to create safer schools and/or communities for youth aged 15-30.

2. Advocacy for Social Change:

- Efforts addressing systemic challenges through advocacy on pressing social and environmental issues.
- Campaigns or forums encouraging youth aged 15-30 to lead transformative discussions and actions.

3. Health and Well-Being:

- Projects promoting physical and mental health, access to wellness resources, and education on health equity.
- Initiatives addressing social determinants of health, such as housing, nutrition, and access to care.
- Programs that support mental health recovery and awareness for youth victims of bullying or gender-based violence.

4. Educational and Career Development:

- Programs supporting learning opportunities, skill-building, and pathways to meaningful employment for youth aged 15-30.
- Workshops and activities fostering career readiness and leadership capacity within this age group.

5. Creative and Innovative Solutions:

- Use of technology, arts, or other innovative approaches to address complex social issues.
- Youth-led initiatives that propose actionable, scalable solutions for community improvement.

5. Grant Amounts

Grant amounts range from **\$1 to \$5,000** per project. All projects must demonstrate capacity to be executed effectively for and by youth.

6. Reporting and Accountability



Funded groups must:

- Submit a **mid-term progress report** and a **final report** summarizing outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Provide evidence of financial accountability, such as receipts and expense logs.
- Share media (photos, videos, testimonials) showcasing the project's impact and participation by youth aged 15-30.

7. Additional Opportunities

- **Grant Writing Support:** Assistance in creating strong applications for future opportunities.
- **Capacity Building:** Access to training sessions on leadership, advocacy, and project management tailored to youth participants.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Opportunities for youth to connect with professionals and community leaders.
- **Recognition:** All projects will be showcased in annual events or through program communications.

Contact Information

For general inquiries or assistance:

- **Email:** ylc@spcottawa.on.ca
- **Phone:** 343-700-3813
- **Office Address:** Social Planning Council of Ottawa, 815 St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ON, K1K 3A7 Room #220

For reporting issues or resolving problems related to funded projects:

- **Email:** office@spcottawa.on.ca
- **Phone:** 613-236-9300 Ext. 302

We are here to support you throughout the application process and the execution of your project.