



Applicant Guide

Youth Investment Fund Granting Program



Kingston Community
Health Centres

Centres de santé
communautaire de Kingston



youthdiversion



Community Foundation
for Kingston & Area



Southeast
Public Health



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ABOUT

The **Youth Investment Fund (YIF)** is a component of the **Unnamed Youth Project (UYP)** and is guided by our **Regional Youth Advisory Circle (YAC)**. The YIF will allocate a total of **\$25k** in 2026 to community-based programs and initiatives that align with youth-identified priorities emerging from the 2025 KFL&A UYP engagement process. These priorities were categorized into **Nine Investment Themes** (listed below). This funding mechanism is consistent with calls for youth voice and a youth-driven decision-making process.



Nine Investment Themes

1. Mental/emotional health supports.
2. Youth voice and leadership.
3. Education and career access.
4. Transportation and infrastructure.
5. Community safety and belonging.
6. Family-based support.
7. Housing and stability.
8. Communication and awareness.
9. Access to care.



The **KFL&A Unnamed Youth Project (UYP)** focuses on enhancing community opportunities for youth, strengthening family support systems and fostering youth voice and leadership. The long-term vision of the **UYP** is to reduce early substance exposure/use among youth grades 7-12. The only way to achieve these goals is to have youth from all walks of life at the table as decision-makers.

Our **Regional Youth Advisory Circle (YAC)** provides a platform for youth to advise local policy makers, advocate for better supports and opportunities for youth in KFL&A, and make decisions about funding for youth priorities.

We created this guide to help you prepare and apply to the **YIF**. The deadline to submit an application is **November 15th 2026**. We anticipate funding several projects with the \$25,000 in total to be granted out.

Who can apply?

Applicant must either:

- be a not-for-profit organization or a school board
or
- be a youth or adult ally partnered with a not-for-profit organization

If you are a youth with an idea and are not yet connected with an organization, reach out to us at **UYP@kchc.ca** to learn more about how to get connected.



Application Tips

We encourage proposals that...	A strong proposal might...	A weak proposal might...
Prioritize youth voice and leadership	Actively involve youth in planning and decision-making	Be designed solely by adults without youth input
Value diverse perspectives, inclusivity and accesibility	Involve underrepresented communities to consider their needs and perspectives	Develop solutions without engaging with diverse partners
Are responsive to the priorities identified by youth in KFL&A	Be guided by The Nine Youth Investment Themes	Be based on assumptions of what youth need
Are realisitc and achievable	Include realistic deadlines, and obtainable goals	Set expectations too high with goals that are dificult to meet

Eligible Projects and Expenses

All projects, programs, or initiatives **must**:

- Have a clearly defined purpose related to at least one of the **Nine Investment Themes** listed on page 3.
- Include youth in the planning or execution of the project, be youth led, or have a purpose of enhancing life for youth in the community.
- Clearly explain and demonstrate financial need.
- Support communities in the KFL&A geographical catchment area.

All projects, programs, or initiatives **must not be**:

- Profit generating projects or activities.
- Sectarian, religious, or political purposes and activities.
- Annual fund drives or projects to replace fundraising deficits.

Eligible Expenditures	Ineligible Expenditures
• Wages and employment-related costs for staff.* • Fees for professional services. • Materials and supplies. • Printing and communication costs. • Transportation costs. • Pro-rated portion of utilities, insurance, etc. • Rental of premises. • Translation and interpretation services. • Lease, purchase, and maintenance of equipment. • Professional development for staff and/or board.	• Purchase of property (land or building). • Expenses incurred prior to the start of the project or after its completion. • To cover deficits or retire debts. • To provide endowment funds.

*We welcome applications that support a living wage for employees. Providing a living wage (\$22.20 per hour in Kingston in 2026) can improve quality of life for employees and support financial stability. Providing a living wage may benefit project implementation by improving productivity and morale while reducing staff turnover.

How To Apply



Submit Application

Click here to complete an application: <https://kchc.ca/programs/unnamed-youth-project/>. You will be asked for contact information, description of project, budget breakdown, and information on youth involvement. Applications open on **September 15th, 2026** and close on **November 15th, 2026**.

YAC Review

The YAC will review all applications after the deadline. They will then select up to 8 proposals that align best with the **Nine Investment Themes** to continue to the next step.

Invitation to Pitch Party

Applicants that are selected for the next stage will receive an invitation to our Pitch Party. The pitch party will be taking place on **November 27th, 2026** in Kingston, ON.

Create Your Pitch

Once you have received an invitation it is time to start preparing, if you haven't already. Refer to page 7. If you face any challenges with giving a pitch please reach out to **UYP@kchc.ca**.

Pitch Party

It is time to present your pitch! All selected applicants will have a time slot to present their pitch. There will be time to mingle and ask questions after the presentations.

YAC Final Review

After the Pitch Party the YAC will discuss which applicants will be receiving funding.

Formal Decision

Applicants will be notified of the results of their application.



Creating Your Pitch



When creating your pitch you may wish to touch on some of the following information. These are questions that you should think about when preparing. Your pitch should not exceed **5 minutes**.

Introduction: Briefly describe your motivation for applying to the Youth Investment Fund.

Project Description: Provide a brief overview of the project, program, or initiative you wish to be funded.

- What is the outcome that you're hoping for from this project and how will your project impact the youth in our community?
- We recommend explaining how youth will be involved and considered during the planning and execution of the project.

Project Alignment and Importance: Describe how the project aligns with one or more of the Nine Investment Themes.

- What is important about what you are trying to do?
- Why is this project the best way to achieve your aims?
- What excites you about this project?

Collaboration: Include information about any community partners and the nature of their participation.

Funds: You do not need to include a detailed budget in your pitch, but an estimate of total project costs explaining in brief what funds will be used for.

Presentation: Be creative! You can present your pitch in any format you prefer. Your presentation can be anything from a powerpoint to a music video and anything inbetween.

TIP: Practice your pitch multiple times (and we suggest in front of others) to ensure that your pitch falls within the 5 minute you are given to present.

Other Details

Measuring Impact

Evaluation is a key component of any project. Applicants must describe the anticipated impact of their project and how they plan to evaluate its success. Impact can be measured quantitatively and/or qualitatively. Methods of evaluation may include:

- Tracking event frequency and the number of participant registrations
- Focus groups
- Surveys and evaluation forms
- Collecting stories and testimonials from participants
- Feedback from partner organizations
- Internal studies

Permissions

With permission from the applicant, we may share information about the application with other community funders and donors. There is a field on the application for applicants to give us permission to share information about their application.

Signatures

Recipients of the **YIF** will need to sign a funding agreement. If you are an individual (or youth) partnered with an organization, you will need the name and email of the organization's binding officer/executive leader.

Recognition

By recognizing the support of the **YIF** and the **UYP**, organizations are helping build the spirit of giving within the community while simultaneously promoting their projects and organizations. Successful applicants will receive a Recognition Guideline.



Questions?

We are here to help. For any questions or if you experience any challenges during the application process, please contact us at the email below.

UYP@kchc.ca