



# Indigenous Youth Community Grants

## Funding Guide: Empower Our Youth – Stream A

---

### Project Summary

The *Indigenous Youth Community Grants* is a multi-level funding initiative managed by the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) in collaboration with the Youth Development Initiative (YDI), a year-round support program provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. The program is designed to support community-driven, youth-led projects throughout Nova Scotia. Funding is allocated through specific themed streams that address distinct community needs.

The **Empower Our Youth** stream offers up to \$15,000.00 in funding to Indigenous youth-led groups, non-profit organizations, and school groups to run programs and initiatives to support Indigenous youth enhance their skill-building and stay engaged in educational spaces. Projects must actively involve Indigenous youth (ages 12 to 20) in all phases, including guidance, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Please be advised that funding is limited and that not all applicants will be approved.

### Funding Stream Priorities

This stream prioritizes:

- Indigenous grassroots groups and collectives
- Schools, Indigenous student centers, and school groups
- Organizations with experience in program and project management looking to expand or innovate
- Projects that have an appropriate scale and scope for the funding provided (i.e., engagement numbers and frequency that make sense for the funding requested)

### Project Focus Areas

Awarded projects must fall within the following areas. Please note that projects can fall within multiple focus areas (please select the one that best describes your project).

### Mentorship Opportunities

Projects looking to engage youth in mentorship opportunities with community leaders, partners, and peers, aiming to support their continued or renewed engagement in education or career development.

### Skill Development

Projects that focus on providing training and development opportunities to Indigenous youth, including but not limited to employment skills, trade skills, leadership skills, training opportunities, etc.

\*\*Important Notes:

- All training/opportunities must take place in Nova Scotia
- Projects must benefit a group of youth
- Projects funded in this category must outline a plan to share knowledge or expertise with other Indigenous youth (ex: 5 youth participate in leadership training and then run a community event where they share skills and learning)

## Education Resources and Support

Projects that develop supportive resources to help keep students engaged and supported. Supportive resources can include educational support (e.g., specialized education resources, tutoring, etc.), the development and/or purchase of hardcopy and digital supports (e.g., resource packages, library books, etc.), or providing necessities for students (i.e., breakfast and lunch programs).

## Student Communities

Projects that focus on supporting Indigenous Student Centres and groups to strengthen student communities, connect students with resources, and provide cultural engagement opportunities.

## Eligibility

**Please note:** For the *Indigenous Youth Community Grants* program, NCNS defines Indigenous as status First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people in Canada. Non-Status Indigenous individuals must qualify through NCNS programs and services. To confirm eligibility, please contact 1-800-565-4372.

### Eligible groups and projects include:

- Unincorporated/grassroots youth groups/collectives/councils comprised primarily of Indigenous youth
- Projects run by incorporated groups/registered charities with strong Indigenous youth leadership/participation (operating budget of less than \$500,000.00)
- Projects must primarily serve Indigenous youth

### Ineligible groups and projects include:

- Projects that are not focused on supporting Indigenous youth (ages 12-20)
- Individuals
- Projects taking place outside of Nova Scotia
- For-profit corporations and businesses

## Ineligible Expenses

The *Indigenous Youth Community Grants* program 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 composed entirely of Indigenous members, with at least 75% being Indigenous youth. The committee members bring experience in running programs, overseeing projects and/or providing community support.

## Project Orientation

There will be an orientation session for all new grantees. All grantees will be assigned an NCNS YDI 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:** Grantees will complete a short report and meet digitally with an NCNS YDI staff member to talk through challenges and successes. Grantees will share updates on budget spending, completed activities, and Indigenous youth reach.
- **Final Report (1 month after project completion):** Grantees will submit a final report (including narrative report, budget report, participant tracking sheet, etc.) Grantees will receive a copy of the final report within the first month of their project start date.

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

## Financial Oversight and Trusteeship

Successful applicants over the age of 18 do not require an external funding administrator/trustee and, if successful will receive the grant funds directly.

Successful applicants under the age of 18 will require a local non-profit or trusted community member over the age of 18 to serve as their grant trustee. This trustee may be someone the applicants are already familiar with or NCNS YDI can support in connecting them with a willing organization or community member as well as with creating a trustee agreement that ensures the youth will be supported.

## Release of Funds

Funds are distributed via cheques within three weeks of signing the funding agreement.

## Timelines

Stages	Intake Dates
Application Opens	August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2024
Application Deadline	October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Decisions Released	January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2025
Midterm Report	Halfway through the project
Final Report Due	30 days following the project end date

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

## Questions

NCNS encourages applicants to reach out if they have any questions. Please email [ydi@ncns.ca](mailto:ydi@ncns.ca) to speak with a member of the team.