



# Indigenous Youth Community Grants

## Funding Guide: Sacred Pathways – Stream B

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### 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 **Sacred Pathways** stream offers up to \$5,000.00 in funding to Indigenous youth-led groups, Indigenous non-profit organizations, and First Nations communities/community members to run programs and initiatives focused on increasing the resilience, engagement, and wellness of Indigenous youth. Projects must actively involve Indigenous youth (ages 12 to 20) in all phases, including guidance, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

### Funding Stream Priorities

This stream prioritizes:

- Indigenous youth-led grassroots groups and collectives
- Projects that are focused on land, health, and wellness
- Groups that have some experience running programming and projects, but are looking to scale to a new level or try something new

### Project Focus Areas

Awarded projects should focus on providing programming, training, or capacity building opportunities for Indigenous youth ages 12 to 20. Below, are some possible examples of eligible projects. *Please note, these examples do not include every type of project eligible to be funded.*

- Programs, workshops, or events for youth to participate in recreational, wellness, and/or arts-based programming.
- Cultural programming, including ceremonies, land-based activities, or teaching circles.
- Intergenerational programs that provide youth opportunities to work with Elders, families, parents, and children, etc.
- Programs that increase youth leadership skills
- Projects that target making resources (such as mental health or cultural services) safer and more accessible

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

### 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:

- Indigenous unincorporated/grassroots youth groups/collectives/councils comprised primarily of Indigenous youth
- Indigenous community members with experience running programs and projects

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

#### **Ineligible groups and projects:**

- Projects that are not focused on supporting Indigenous youth (ages 12-20)
- Non-Indigenous groups and organizations
- 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.)

Project leaders cannot receive honorariums of more than \$500.00

### **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 once on their projects.

- **Final Report (1 month after project completion):** Grantees will submit a final report that will include reporting on the final budget (how much money spent), data on the number of participants reached through the project, data on time spent on the project and a narrative report on the project. Grantees will receive a copy of the final report within the first month of their project start date.

### **Financial Oversight and Trusteeship**

Groups/councils/collectives with members 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 creating a trustee agreement that ensures youth will be supported.

### **Release of Funds**

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

### **Timelines**

Applications for the Sacred Pathways Stream will be accepted on a continuous intake basis from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, or until funds are exhausted.

### **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.