

YOUTH INVESTMENT FUND GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

What's the youth investment fund?

The Youth Investment Fund (YIF) is a pool of money that comes from many Departments in the Yukon Government. The Departments of Health and Social Services, Justice, Education, Community Services, Youth Directorate and Women's Directorate all chip in. The money pays for short term projects for youth.

When you say "youth", what age do you mean exactly?
Under 19.

How much dough can we get?
Groups can apply for up to \$5,000 twice yearly or up to \$500 at any time.

So who can apply?

Any of the groups listed below can apply:

- non-profit organizations;
- municipalities and unincorporated communities;
- First Nations;
- youth oriented groups;
- school committees/councils;
- individuals cannot apply directly to the Youth Investment Fund.

Does the YIF give its money to just any youth project?

No. Money tends to be given to projects that give youth a chance. In fact, the YIF money is geared to provide interesting projects to youth who may not find the regular programming offered in their community right for them. Keep in mind that projects that have youth actively involved in the planning process have a better chance of getting money.

Ok, so what do YIF projects do to give those opportunities to youth?

Every YIF project is unique. But often, the projects:

- create social and recreational opportunities for youth;
- promote leadership, skill development and training;
- promote increased employment and educational opportunities for youth;

Ok, now be more specific. What kinds of projects are we talking about here?

Some examples of projects include:

- youth leadership development and training initiatives;
- substance abuse prevention;
- peer counseling;
- skill development programs;
- recreation and physical activities;
- youth camps.

So what can we use the money for?

YIF money can pay for what's listed below:

- wages up to \$15/hr, honoraria up to \$150/day;
- rental or lease of room space or equipment;
- program supplies and materials;
- production of resources such as pamphlets, posters or manuals;
- travel within the Yukon or in some instances to bring speakers or facilitators to the Yukon;
- travel/meals – accurate, actual costs for food, gas, etc. Airfare must be booked at excursion rates.
- administrative costs, advertising and promotion of the project;
- up to 50% towards the purchase of equipment to a maximum of \$1,000 (must be essential to the project).

How does my group apply?

Easy.

Applications forms are available from First Nations offices, RCMP, Community Justice workers, community recreation departments, territorial agents and from the sponsoring departments.

Are there any things that CAN'T get YIF money?

You bet:

- personal items (ex: running shoes);
- feasibility studies / needs assessments;
- travel outside the Yukon;
- projects which duplicate existing government programs;
- business ventures.

Are there any hitches that come along with the cash?

There sure are:

- YIF money will only be given if you show support for your project from other sources. This tells us that your project has broad community support.
- Support can be in the form of money, volunteer time, equipment or office space, project management time, etc.;
- projects that use Yukon people and resources are given priority.

Ok, so pretend my group is in the middle of thinking up a project. What should we keep in mind if we want a good chance at getting money from the YIF?

Show how your project will:

- promote self-esteem and positive self image among youth;
- encourage the development of positive lifestyle choices;
- involve a variety of people and resources from the community and add to what the community already has going for it;
- meet real needs of the youth that the project is meant for;
- have youth meaningfully play a part in the planning and running of the project;
- build bridges between the youth and the adults of the community;

When can my group send in its application?

Deadlines for applications for more than \$500 are 4:30 pm October 1 and April 1 each year.

- if you are applying for less than \$500 you may apply anytime.
- the under \$500 applications will be reviewed and decided upon no more than 3 weeks after we receive it.

What happens once we apply?

You wait:

- your application will be reviewed and you will be contacted to let you know if your project is going to be funded and if not, why not;

What happens if we get approved?

- if your project gets funded, a contract called a "Contribution Agreement" will be sent to you. Your group must sign this and return it to the government before the YIF is able to give your group the money;
- any costs your group has incurred before the YIF deadline will not be covered by the fund;
- upon completion of your project, you will be required to prepare a short, written evaluation and financial report with receipts. Applicants may use additional methods of reporting to add to their written evaluation report. Pictures of the project are very helpful;
- to make sure no one gets hurt, all adults involved in the project should provide authorization and have completed a criminal record check, especially if the project involves extended and/or overnight activities with youth.
- in addition, proof of Instructor Certification, where available, should be required for high-risk activities such as kayaking or guiding.
- funding may not proceed until you notify us that criminal background checks are completed, and provide copies of the Instructor(s) certification.
- groups that have not submitted their evaluations from previous projects may not be eligible for future funding.

SPRING 2006

If your group is interested, fill out the application and send it to:

Coordinator, Youth Investment Fund
Crime Prevention & Policing,
Department of Justice
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
or fax to: (867) 393-6326

For more information please contact:

1-800-661-0408, local 7077
or 867-393-7077



Yukon
Government