United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

Youth Investing in Community Grants Program

Date Implemented: August 2023

United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

Youth Investing in Community Grants Program Policy

Purpose

United Way Centraide Stormont, Dudas, Glengarry (UWC SDG) recognizes the importance of engaging youth to make a difference in our community. Youth Investing in Community (YIC) Grants have been created to provide one-time grant opportunities of up to $1,500 for youth-led projects that demonstrate creative ideas for addressing community issues in Cornwall, Akwesasne or the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Scope

This policy outlines funding options and parameters for one-year YIC Grants.

Time-Frame

YIC Grants are awarded within a school year (September-June) and must be used within this time period.

Source of Funds

The availability of funding for, and number of YIC Grants will vary, based on the funding as approved annually by the UWC SDG Board of Directors.

Funding Criteria

- This funding is separate from other UWC SDG funding streams (Community Investment, Emergency Relief, etc.)
- Applications for YIC Grants will be accepted annually, based on available funding.
- There will be an open call for applications and the opportunity will be advertised widely across the community in order to reach a wide audience.
- YIC Grants are for up to $1,500. In exceptional circumstances and with Board approval, this amount may be increased as funding allows.
- Youth-serving organizations/schools may apply for more than one YIC grant
- Priority will be given to projects that:
    - Present a unique idea that has not been tried before.
    - Focus on the promotion of community involvement and youth wellbeing
    - Show a high degree of collaboration
    - Align with UWC SDG pillars (https://unitedwaysdg.com/what-we-do/our-pillars/)
    - Raise awareness about youth issues/concerns
- Grants are one-time only and there is no guarantee of future funding beyond the initial YIC grant.
- Any funds not allocated to YIC grant projects within a given year will remain in the YIC fund to be distributed by UWC SDG to youth-serving non-profit organizations/programs in the community

United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

- Any funds allocated to a project that are **not** used must be returned to UWC SDG. Returned funds will be added to the YIC fund to be distributed by UWC SDG to youth-serving non-profit organizations/programs in the community

Eligibility

The following criteria are required for successful YIC Grant applications:

- There must be a Lead Youth Applicant (age 12-24) and an Adult Trustee (age 25+) supporting the project.
- The Adult Trustee must be associated with a Qualified Donee (registered charity/non-profit, school board, etc.) so that grant funds can be distributed in alignment with UWC SDG guidelines (no funds can be given to individuals).
- The project is planned and implemented by youth and clearly engages the youth community within Cornwall, Akwesasne or the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry.
- The project positively benefits youth within Cornwall, Akwesasne or the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry.
- The project is consistent with the mission, vision, values and pillars of UWC SDG.
- The project objectives are specific and measurable.
- The project is legal and safe.
- Funds will be awarded only to projects that are open, unbiased and accessible to ALL youth in the community.
- The project will deliver no benefits to individual people, families or organizations to the exclusion of others.
- The Lead Youth Applicant will produce a Final Report by the specified date on the grant agreement. A video demonstrating how the funds were used may be required as part of the final report. Additionally, Youth Leads may be required to provide a project update part-way through the process.

Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Events or workshops that focus on youth activities, issues and interests that may include guest speakers, multi-media presentations, musical acts, skill development, collective brainstorming or the discussion of challenging topics affecting youth.
- Community art projects (murals, exhibits, installations) that address youth issues.
- Non-competitive sporting events that encourage an active, healthy lifestyle, youth engagement, trying new things and fun.
- Projects that focus on environmental issues and take steps to make communities in C, A, SDG more sustainable.
- Any other youth-led project, event or workshop that promotes positive change for youth in the community.

Eligible YIC Grant expenses include:

United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

- Direct project costs (resources, guest speakers, thank you gifts, non-cash prizes, honoraria).
- Project materials (printing, photocopying, food).
- Equipment (short-term rental) and facility rentals.

Non-eligible YIC Grant expenses/projects include:

- Cash prizes
- Staff salaries, benefits, administrative costs for the Adult Lead, school or organization
- Office space rental
- Fundraising projects
- Funding for individual/group travel
- Projects that are not run primarily by youth
- Incomplete applications

Application and Evaluation Process

Youth must apply for a YIC Grant during the open call for applications (normally annually in September) using the application provided by UWC SDG. Applications submitted outside of the open call and/or using a different format than the one provided, will not be considered for funding.

Final Grant Decisions

YIC Grants are reviewed and recommended by the Youth Community Investment Committee in collaboration with the Community Investment Coordinator. Due to the small size of the YIC Grants, UWC SDG Board approval is not required.

Grant Approval

When a YIC Grant is approved:

- A funding letter and YIC Grant Agreement will be provided to the Lead Youth Applicant and the Adult Lead via Email after an initial phone conversation to notify the Lead Youth Applicant of their successful application.
- Funds will be dispersed to the qualified donee (school, organization) upon receipt of the signed YIC Grant Agreement and based on the payment schedule as set out in the funding letter.

Grant Denial

When a YIC Grant is denied:

- Communication of the funding denial and reasoning for the decision will be made via phone by the Community Impact Coordinator to the Adult Trustee.
- Subsequent written notification of the decision will be sent via Email to the Youth Lead and Adult Trustee.
- No appeals are permitted for funding decisions.

United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

YOUTH INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES GRANT INFO SHEET

Are you a youth living in Cornwall, Akwesasne or the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry?

Do you have a great idea for a project that would help other youth in your community?

Need up to $1,500 to make it happen?

Apply for a Youth Investing in Communities Grant today!

United Way Centraide Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry wants to fund great ideas from youth looking to make positive change in the community.

What kind of youth projects are we looking for?

- New, unique projects
- Projects that aim to improve the lives of youth or make the community better
- Projects with youth working together
- Projects that help highlight youth issues/concerns and ideas
- Projects that take place in Cornwall, Akwesasne or SDG

What are some project ideas?

Events, workshops, guest speakers, multi-media presentations, musical acts, art displays, skill development/training, collective brainstorming, discussions on tough topics and so much more!

To apply, what do I need?

- A Lead Youth Applicant who is between the ages of 12-24
- An Adult Trustee (age 25+) who can support your project, help you handle the grant money and complete a final report
- A project that:
    - Is planned and implemented by youth, that helps other youth get involved and benefits the community
    - Is legal and safe
    - Is open, unbiased and accessible to ALL youth in the community
- To know what you want to see happen because of your project (outcomes!)

What can we use the money for?

- Direct programming (resources. Guest speakers, thank you gifts, non-cash prizes)
- Project materials (photocopying, food, promotions)
- Equipment (short-term rental) and facility rentals

What can't we use the money for?

- Cash prizes

United Way Centraide
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

- Staff salaries, benefits, administrative costs
- Office space rental
- Fundraising projects
- Funding for individual or group travel
- Projects that are not lead and run by youth

When can I apply?

Between November 16th, 2026 and the deadline of December 17th, 2026

What happens after I apply?

December/January - our team reviews your application and reaches out if they have any questions.

January - our YIC Grant Review Committee reviews your application and will let you know if you are successful.

If I get funding, what will I have to do?

- Sign a funding agreement (and have your Adult Trustee do the same). Once we get your signed agreement, we will send your Adult Trustee's organization 90% of the funds.
- Have a great time planning and running your project! Keep us posted on your progress and let us know if you need any help!
- Spend the grant money by May 31st. Return any un-used money by June 15th.
- Let us know how the project went by completing a final report. Once we have reviewed and approved your report, we will send the final 10% of grant money to your Adult Trustee.

Reach out to Jan Vesna, Community Investment Coordinator, with any questions, concerns or ideas:

jan@unitedwaysdg.com