

Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund – Call for Applications

Purpose:

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support sites, program participants and/or youth and family advisors connected to Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO), in strengthening existing equity focused initiatives and/or implementing new ones through a one-time funding opportunity.

Background:

Since the inception of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO), there has been an expressed commitment to equity, anti-racism, and inclusion, as demonstrated through YWHO's core components, value statements and mission. The YWHO Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund aligns with YWHO's mission and values. Further, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has added urgency to the need for equity-focused initiatives, due to the exacerbated inequities that youth have experienced during this time.

Over the four-year demonstration phase of YWHO, there was growing recognition that intentional planning and appropriate resourcing was needed in order to better bring YWHO's commitment of equity and inclusion to life. The YWHO Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund is one step towards furthering our commitment to equity, anti-racism, and inclusion; however it needs to be accompanied by additional larger scale actions within YWHO, that also demonstrate this commitment.

Funding Available:

Successful applications will be eligible to receive up to **\$5,000** in funding to implement their equity-focused initiative. Applicants will also have access to implementation support to rollout their initiative.

Applications may be submitted in either English or French. Please note that while YWHO makes the best effort to translate materials and communications into French, not all communications and implementation supports can be provided in French.

Areas of Focus:

YWHO's Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund will be grounded in the principle of **concrete equity action**. Concrete equity action is defined as the participation in individual and/or collective activities to challenge inequity and injustice¹.

¹ The Art of Social Justice: Examining Arts Programming as a Context for Critical Consciousness Development Among Youth (2021). Accessed from: <https://youthrex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/YouthREX-RS-Ibrahim-et-al.-2021.pdf>

YWHO's Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund invites applications focused in at least one of the following three areas:

- **ACCESS:** Funding the removal of identified barriers to **access to service**.
Examples of initiatives that remove barriers may include, but are not limited to:
 - Support with transportation for clients living on low income or in remote areas (eg., taxi chits, bus passes, bus tokens, pre-paid public transit cards);
 - Support with nutrition and food insecurity (eg., grocery store gift cards, food hampers, food stipends, cooking class supplies);
 - Support with safer supply resources and kits for harm reduction (eg., clean needles, safe needle disposal supplies, condoms, gloves, alcohol swabs, naloxone kits, accessible education about safer drug-use practices, etc.);
 - Support with childminding while youth who are parents are participating in YWHO services;
 - Support with gender affirming resources and kits (eg., binders, packers, clippers + mirror set, gaffs, trans tape, etc.);
 - Support with virtual access to services and engagement opportunities (eg., pre-paid phone and/or data cards, phone upgrades for Webex)

- **EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES:** Funding local and provincial supports that can improve **experiences and outcomes** for diverse youth, including: culturally relevant programming & services, wrap-around supports that address the social determinants of health, expansion of the circle of care to include spiritual and cultural healing, intergenerational relationship building, ceremony, etc.

Examples of initiatives that can improve experiences and outcomes for diverse youth may include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment/ supplies for clients to access spiritual or faith based care (eg., traditional medicines, shell, drums, matches, equipment for smudging, prayer mats, partitioned off prayer space for Muslim clients, etc.);
 - Artwork, signage, and decorations for hub space to better reflect the cultures, diversity, and abilities of hub clients;
 - Ceremony and cultural exchange, according to protocols of the hosting territory¹;
 - Honoraria for Indigenous Elders, Aunties and Uncles, and other individuals who may broaden the circle of care and provide complementary culturally-specific services/supports to YWHO clients².
- **EMPOWER:** Funding opportunities for community development and personal development and civic engagement to **empower** youth to actively address the social determinants of health that affect them (ex. opportunities to promote civic engagement and young community leaders, educational and programming opportunities that foster critical consciousness, critical thinking, and self and

community advocacy).

Examples of initiatives that empower youth to actively address the social determinants of health that affect them may include, but are not limited to:

- Funds for professional development for youth and advisory members to support engagement and youth empowerment;
- Reimbursement for skills-based courses, conferences, cultural opportunities, leadership events, etc.;
- Reimbursement for professional and career-based development (eg., certificates such as Smart Serve, food handler, first aid, CPR, vulnerable sector check, etc.);
- Bring Indigenous youth leaders together to build relationships and share about progress, barriers, and opportunities in their work¹;
- Workshops delivered to support capacity building, including training on priority themes like mental health and suicide prevention, public speaking, fundraising, grant writing, networking, etc.²;
- Supports offered to individual youth and grassroots groups in order to help them access the resources that they need to turn their ideas into action, including working with young people in their communities to develop their knowledge and skills, and connecting them with relevant individual and organization mentors¹.

Eligible Applicants:

Applicants must be connected to an existing YWHO site and applications should be submitted jointly with the Network Lead organization. Applications can be submitted by:

- YWHO Network staff;
- YWHO site partner staff jointly with Network Lead representative;
- Youth or family members from local YWHO advisories in joint effort with Network Lead organization and/or YWHO provincial advisories; or,
- YWHO Advisory Groups (PYAC, PFAC or PIYFAC, etc.)

Youth applications: We strongly encourage youth from local and provincial advisories to apply. If youth need support with application, consult with your youth engagement lead.

- For PIYFAC applicants, please connect with Kaitlyn Gilham kaitlyn.gilham@camh.ca
- For PYAC and PFAC applicants, please connect with Lee Cameron lee.cameron@ywho.ca

²A Roadmap to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #66 (2018) by Indigenous Youth Voices. Accessed from: <https://youthrex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Indigenous-Youth-Voices-Roadmap-to-TRC-66.pdf>

A note on ineligible applications: Items or activities that are funded through hub operations budget are not eligible through the Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund.

Application Information:

Submission Date: We encourage applicants to submit applications at the link [HERE](#), by **Friday, October 28th, 2022.**

Application Guideline:

YWHO encourages applicants to demonstrate their capacity, commitment, and willingness to meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Provide a clear description of at least one of three areas of focus that is being applied for and why. Please include:
 - The equity issue/determinant of health being addressed
 - The target population(s)
 - Past/present approaches and experience addressing the issue at hand and/or working together with target population(s)
2. Demonstrate the process that will be taken to centre groups most affected by the issue. Please include:
 - Evidence/knowledge from people most affected by the issue being addressed
 - An outline on how the initiative will be responsive to a priority or need raised by the target community
 - A clear plan to engage people most affected by the issue being addressed. The application must outline at least one way in which engagement will be made to be mutually beneficial (eg., honoraria, mentorship, etc.)
 - Indication of if and where the initiative will be led by people with lived experience of the issue being addressed
3. Clearly outline what the funds will be put towards and how much will be required (outline key activities and end goal, not necessarily a budget). Please include:
 - Amount of funds application is requesting (**maximum amount being \$5,000**)
 - Key activities/supplies that funds will be used towards to implement initiative (eg., supplies/materials, person time, etc.)
 - High level timelines connected to key activities
 - End goal/outcome desired by accessing funds
 - Indication of if and where existing infrastructure or partnerships are in place to feasibly implement activities and reach end goal

4. Indicate the plan to share back learnings/impact from the initiative to the YWHO network, including the perspective of those the fund aims to support and how the funds were used. Please include:
 - Ideas, plan and/or process to share back impact and learnings (eg., 1-2 paragraph summary, video, podcast, evaluation questions, feedback questionnaires, focus group, report, newsletter, etc.)

Resources: Applicants are encouraged to visit www.youthhubs.ca for more details about YWHO

Application Review Information:

- Proposals will be reviewed through a confidential process by a panel of YWHO team members that include team members from advisories, equity and engagement, Shkaabe Makwa, evaluation and implementation
- Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on applicants' demonstration of meeting the eligibility criteria outlined above.
- Applicants may be requested to participate in a short interview and/or meeting with YWHO team members, after the initial review of applications
- All applicants will be notified of the decision of funding by **December 15th, 2022.**

Additional Information:

Questions about this funding opportunity and general support requests can be sent to Equity Coach, Nakita Sunar at nakita.sunar@camh.ca. Questions, and responses, will be made available to all applicants within a 48-hour period.