

## 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 initiatives 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. Intentional planning and appropriate resourcing is 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.

### 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 for this initiative. Applications may be submitted in English or French.

### Areas of Focus:

YWHO's Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund applications must be grounded in **concrete equity action**. Concrete equity action is the participation in individual and/or collective activities to challenge inequity and injustice<sup>1</sup>.

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 youth living on low income or in remote areas (e.g., taxi chits, bus passes, bus tokens, pre-paid public transit cards);
  - Support with nutrition and food insecurity (e.g., grocery store gift cards, food hampers, food stipends, cooking class supplies);

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

- Support with safer supply resources and kits for harm reduction (e.g., 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 (e.g., binders, packers, clippers + mirror set, gaffs, trans tape, etc.);
  - Support with virtual access to services and engagement opportunities (e.g., 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.

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

- Equipment/ supplies for youth to access spiritual or faith based care (eg., traditional medicines, shell, drums, matches, equipment for smudging, prayer mats, partitioned off prayer space for Muslim youth, 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 territory<sup>1</sup>;
  - 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 youth.
- **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 (e.g. 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 empowerment;
- Reimbursement for skills-based courses, conferences, cultural opportunities, leadership events, etc.;
- Reimbursement for professional and career-based development (e.g.,

certificates such as Smart Serve, food handler, first aid, CPR, vulnerable sector check, etc.);

- Bring youth leaders together to build relationships and share about progress, barriers, and opportunities in their work<sup>1</sup>;
- Workshops delivered to support capacity building, including training on priority themes like mental health and suicide prevention, public speaking, fundraising, grant writing, networking, etc.<sup>2</sup>;
- 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.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

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

- YWHO Network staff;
- YWHO Network 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,
- Provincial YWHO Advisory Groups (PYAC, PFAC or PIYFAC, etc.)

**Sites and advisories that applied in Year 1:** If you are a site that has applied in Year 1 of the fund, you can apply in Year 2 by indicating the progression of Year 1 initiative in the application form (this will include: outcomes, impact, learning, how additional funds will be used, and a sustainability strategy). While applicants from Year 1 can apply, priority will be given to new applications and initiatives.

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

**Submission Date:** We encourage applicants to submit applications at the link [HERE](#), by **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Register below for Info & Coaching Session for Equity Fund & Urgent Needs Fund:**

- **Date:** Weds, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>: 10am-11:30am
- **To register click** [HERE](#)

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<sup>2</sup>A 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>

## Equity & Youth Opportunities Fund – Application Guideline

### Eligibility Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated based on applicants' demonstration of meeting the eligibility criteria outlined below:

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 (e.g., 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 Provincial Office, 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.)
- Opportunities to sustain or scale up the project of the equity issues being addressed

### **Application Review Information:**

- Proposals will be reviewed through a confidential process by a panel of YWHO team members that include team members from the YWHO Provincial office, and YWHO Provincial Advisories
- 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 in **January 2024**.

### **Additional Information:**

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