

2025 AND 2026
**IDENTIFY 'N
IMPACT**

GRANT GUIDELINES

Toronto

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Grant Program Overview

Identify 'N Impact (INI) grant program was initiated through the advocacy efforts of the [Toronto Youth Cabinet](#) (TYC), the City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body, established in 1998 by Toronto City Council.

Since 2006, the purpose of the [Identify 'N Impact \(INI\) Grant Program](#) has been to:

- Help promote youth engagement and community safety in the city of Toronto
- Support youth to turn IDEAS into ACTION
- Support youth-led groups
- Motivate and encourage [MVP](#) youth to become involved in their communities. MVP stands for Most Vulnerable People, and is the acronym used to describe "youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime" [1]

INI IS:

- project-based funding that provides youth, aged 15 to 29 with the opportunity to expand on their leadership goals by funding their project ideas
- for youth to plan, manage and deliver the project themselves, with support from adult allies.
- a grant program that supports youth to build new skills - including leadership, organizational and networking skills by creating and implementing a project
- time limited grants of up to a maximum of \$17,000 per group project to help support youth-led groups

INI IS NOT:

- for adult-led activities or groups. Adult allies may support youth with their decision making, so long as youth are the leaders of the group & project
- for agencies or organizations to apply on behalf of youth
- for individuals (artists, motivational speakers, athletes, etc.)
- for participants who are training to compete at an elite level
- for projects where youth are only participating and not leading
- for businesses, for-profit social enterprises or other for-profit groups
- for organizations with mandates and activities covered under provincial or federal legislation such as schools and universities, day-cares, group homes, hospitals

[1] MVP youth definition: [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy \(TYES\)](#) recognizes that there are various and intersecting factors that affect youth's resilience and vulnerability to involvement in serious violence and crime. The term MVP youth (Most Vulnerable People) is used to describe youth who face multiple and/or intersecting vulnerabilities identified in the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services' Roots of Youth Violence report. These roots include: poverty, racism, community design, issues in the education system, family issues, health/mental health, lack of economic opportunity and issues in the justice system. Through the City's work on gender-based youth violence, ability, homophobia, transphobia and community violence exposure, these have also been added as roots of youth vulnerability.

What Activities are Eligible?

The INI grants support a by-youth-for-youth approach and work being done to address issues outlined in the [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#) (TYES).

All funded projects must work towards advancing one or more of the following priorities to be eligible to apply:

- community safety and violence prevention
- civic engagement (political activity is not eligible for funding)
- mental health and wellbeing
- skills development
- increasing access to educational attainment
- youth friendly spaces
- arts
- sports*

*Note: Sports-related projects are eligible for the 2025 and 2026 grant cycle in celebration of the FIFA World Cup 26™.

Project proposals will be given priority if they:

- work with and/or engage MVP youth (youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime), or focus specifically on Indigenous, Black, and/or 2SLGBTQ+ youth
- involve youth from/and or based in one of the 33 [Neighbourhood Improvement Areas](#) (NIAs) and/or one of the 10 Emerging Neighbourhoods in the city of Toronto
- are from new, small, grassroots youth-led groups
- are youth-led initiatives in celebration of the the FIFA World Cup 26™

Tip: Use the Find Your Neighbourhood tool [here](#) to find out which neighbourhood you live in or are offering your project activities. Filter results in the search to see the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs).

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Your group is eligible to apply if it is youth-led group:

- includes at least three or more youth, ages 15 to 29 years old
- based in Toronto
- a not-for-profit proposing project activities that will run in Toronto only
 - Unless specifically for Indigenous-based cultural activities outside of Toronto as per the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).

For the INI grant program, a group is considered "youth-led" if all of the following criteria are met:

- A majority of the group's leadership are youth between the ages of 15 to 29 years old.
- The group makes decisions about its activities independent from any other community organization.
- Youth are the leaders in the project planning/design, management and delivery.

Youth Committees/Groups of Non-Profit Organizations:

- A youth committee or initiative of a non-profit organization can apply if it is the applicant group. Youth must write the application, plan the project and make the project happen. Adult-led non-profit organizations cannot apply on behalf of a youth committee or initiative.

Youth Committees/Groups of Religious Organizations:

- A youth committee or group of a religious organization can apply if it meets the criteria above for being youth-led and clearly shows a separation between religious activities and community activities.
- Project activities must be open and accessible to youth outside of the religious group's participants.
- Project activities cannot include any religious content.

Youth-led Groups that are not incorporated:

- Youth-led groups that are not incorporated and do not have audited financial statements can still apply for INI funding.
- If recommended for funding, your group will need to work with a Trustee. The City of Toronto has launched a dedicated trusteeship pilot program, which means the City will directly fund the trusteeship fees of trusted non-profit organizational partners. Funded groups are also able to work with an existing trustee, as long as the City of Toronto's trusteeship requirements are met.

What is a Trustee?

- A Trustee is a non-profit or charitable organization that works with you to provide the financial and management support needed for the project to succeed.
- A Trustee is able to provide coaching, training, and templates to help strengthen your project's effectiveness and project delivery.
- A Trustee provides financial accountability for the funding if a group does not have the financial systems or organizational structure to do so.
- A Trustee will provide insurance coverage for the project activities.
- All successful grant applicants will be paired up with a Trustee through a dedicated trusteeship pilot program at no cost to the funded group.
- If a funded group wants to work with their own trustee, the trustee may charge a fee of up to 20% of the total grant amount to provide these services

Role of Adult Allies in Supporting INI Funded Groups

Adult allies (e.g. Elders, community workers, mentors, residents, agency staff, etc.) and/or community organizations led by adults can support youth-led groups and INI funded projects as advisors, mentors, coaches, partners, and/or collaborators; by providing in-kind support (e.g. space for meetings); and/or by filling the role of an organizational mentor. Youth-led groups are encouraged to develop relationships with other community groups, including adult-led organizations.

Adult allies should not run INI projects or tell youth how to run their projects. Adult allies can support youth leaders as they develop and strengthen planning, coordination, team building, and leadership skills.

Who is NOT eligible to apply?

- Individuals
- Projects led by youth who live outside of Toronto
- Adult-led organizations
- Foundations
- Registered businesses or other for-profit groups
- City of Toronto employees
- Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) and Multi-Sport Organizations (MSO) and groups affiliated with a Recognized PSO or MSO
- 2023 and 2024 INI grant recipients are not eligible to apply again until 2027
- Organizations with mandates and activities covered under provincial or federal legislation such as schools and universities, day-cares, group homes, hospitals



Grant Funding Amounts

How much can our youth-led group apply for?

INI project budget: Youth-led groups can apply for up to \$17,000 to lead and deliver INI projects. This grant cycle will award 2025 and 2026 funding in celebration of the FIFA World Cup 26™. Grants will be divided into two cohorts:

Cohort 1: For projects that will take place between November 1, 2025 and September 31, 2026

Cohort 2: For projects that will take place between February 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026

If your project will take place in both of these time frames (e.g., in the summer of 2026), you can indicate this in your application and you will be assigned a cohort.

Your group can also apply for up to \$2,000 in additional project funds to support youth leaders and/or members of your group and/or project participants who are deaf and/or living with disabilities to lead and/or participate in your INI project. To apply for these additional funds, applicants must complete extra questions in the grant application form.

Some examples of eligible costs you can apply for to support the participation of deaf and/or individuals living with disabilities in your project can include the following:

- American Sign Language (ALS) interpretation
- Audio description
- Closed captioning
- Communication assistance
- Attendant care
- Support worker(s)
- Assistive device equipment rentals



Please contact a staff person to request approval for other supports not listed here before you submit your application.

Please note: The additional funds of up to \$2000 are not guaranteed to be approved for your project even if your INI application is successful. If these funds are approved and unused, they must be returned to the City of Toronto.

Eligible Use of Funds

INI funds (up to \$17,000) can be used for the following types of project costs:

- Staff salaries and benefits (e.g. pay for group or project leads or hired staff)
- Volunteer honoraria and volunteer related expenses
- Space rental
- Food (e.g., snacks, drinks, lunch, dinner, catering, etc.)
- Equipment rental
- Transportation to and from project activities by youth leaders, participants, staff and volunteers (must be within the City of Toronto)
- Project equipment, such as art or office supplies for participants, is allowed. However, electronic equipment (e.g. computers, printers, phones, cameras) is not permitted. Rental of these kinds of electronic equipment is encouraged
- Sports equipment, such as participant uniforms, balls and racquets are allowed. However, since unincorporated groups cannot retain ownership, any approved sports equipment purchases would be owned by the applicant group's trustee. Rental of sports equipment is encouraged*
- Certified sports instructors*
- Sports officials/referees*
- Childcare costs for participants and volunteers
- Promotion and publicity (e.g., flyers, posters, etc.)
- Purchased services (e.g., web design, translation, printing, facilitation, etc.)
- Capacity building costs (e.g., mental health training, anti-racism training, CPR training, Food Handlers Certification, cultural sensitivity training, financial literacy training, team building retreat, etc.)
- Project monitoring and evaluation related costs
- Trustee
- Administrative costs (up to 20% of your project budget can be used to cover a portion or all of the costs related to the delivery of your project (e.g., partial rent for office space, partial staff cell phone costs, printing).

*Note: Sports-related expenses are only eligible for the 2025 and 2026 grant cycle in celebration of FIFA World Cup 26™.

Additional funds to support deaf individuals or people living with disabilities:

Your group can also apply for up to \$2,000 in additional project funds to support youth leaders and members of your group or participants who are deaf and/or living with disabilities to lead and/or participate in your INI project. See page five of the grant guidelines for details.

Ineligible Use of Funds

- Projects and activities outside of Toronto
 - Unless specifically for Indigenous-based cultural activities outside of Toronto as per the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).
- Electronic equipment (e.g. computers, printers, phones, cameras) is not permitted
- Ongoing multi-year program funding
- Political and religious activities
- Fundraising events
- Donations to charitable causes
- Debt repayment or deficit funding
- Individual subsidies (e.g. scholarships)
- Major capital costs. Note: Contact City staff about any capital cost line items prior to submitting your budget request as major capital costs are not eligible for funding.

Trustee Fees

The City of Toronto has launched a dedicated trusteeship program, which means the City will directly fund the trusteeship fees of trusted non-profit organizational partners. Funded INI groups are also able to work with their own trustee, as long as the City of Toronto's trusteeship requirements are met. Please note that if a funded group does not use a partner from the City's trusteeship program, trustee fees would be paid from their INI funding. The City must approve of any trustee arrangement prior to releasing grant funding to the trustee organization on behalf of any INI grant recipient group.

Trustee Eligibility Requirements:

- Be an incorporated not-for-profit organization that operates without financial gain for its members or directors.
- Be based in the city of Toronto. This means the organization must be located in Toronto with an address that begins with an M postal code and supports grant activities that take place in Toronto. Indigenous-led organizations may work in a self-determined area that supports urban Indigenous Toronto youth.
- Be accountable to the community through an elected Board of Directors who are representative of the community served.
- More than 50% of Board members reside in the city of Toronto.
- Have audited financial statements for the most recent fiscal year.
- Be in good standing with the City of Toronto.
- Comply with the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).
- Have proven financial and program management experience.

Defining Eligible Types of INI Project Activities

INI grant funding is intended to support time-limited youth-led project activities. This can include:

- New projects that are time-limited and have a firm start and end date. These kinds of projects allow youth-led groups to fund new project activities that work towards advancing one or more of the grant program priorities (i.e., community safety and violence prevention, civic engagement, mental health and wellbeing, skills development, increasing access to educational attainment, youth friendly spaces and arts). Funds are not intended to support ongoing programs or projects that have been previously or are currently funded through INI.
 - Example: A youth-led group is interested in developing a new youth-friendly mental health and yoga workshop series for local high-school youth to address social isolation and promote wellbeing.
 - Example: In response to negative interactions with the police, a youth-led group developed a time-limited awareness campaign to educate and inform youth about their rights.
- Sports projects that encourage physical activity and participation in sports, diversity and inclusion, and community celebrations.
 - Example: A youth-led group launches an initiative to boost community spirit during the FIFA World Cup 26™. The project includes a youth-designed soccer activation, a community celebration, and creative arts activities like banner-making and dance performances. Youth volunteers lead efforts to engage local residents in the community, creating inclusive spaces for shared celebration and connection through the joy of the game.

Past INI Project Description

- Passion Meet Purpose was a project that was led by the Girl Impact youth group. The purpose of the project was to increase access by offering free and accessible workshops specifically tailored to the unique needs and interests of young Black girls in the Etobicoke West-Humber communities.



Examples of Eligible Sports Projects

- A youth-led group organizes a free, 6 month soccer skills and wellness program for youth in a Neighbourhood Improvement Area. The project includes weekly practices, healthy snacks, and workshops on nutrition and mental wellness, aiming to promote active living, build community connections, and create inclusive access to sport for all.
- A youth-led group hosts a “Soccer Cultural Fair,” where local youth organize sports tournaments representing different countries alongside cultural showcases featuring traditional food, music, and dance. The project celebrates the diversity of the community, promotes cultural exchange, and encourages youth leadership through event planning and storytelling.

Key Dates for Cohort 1 and 2

INI Grant Activity	Key Dates
INI Grant opens for Applications	Wednesday, June 25, 2025
Grant Information Sessions	Thursday, July 17, 4 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, July 30, 4:30 P.M. – 6 P.M.
INI Grant Application Deadline	Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at noon
INI Grant Application Reviews	Mid-August - Mid-October 2025
INI Grant Decisions	Late October 2025
INI Grant Funding Released	Cohort 1: November 2025 Cohort 2: February 2026
Onboarding for INI grantee groups	Nov 2025 to Feb 2026
INI Funded Project Timeframe	Cohort 1: November 1, 2025 - September 31, 2026 Cohort 2: February 1 to December 31, 2026
INI Final Report Deadline	Cohort 1: November 1, 2026 Cohort 2: February 1, 2027

Grant Review Committee – Who makes the funding decisions?

In partnership with the Toronto Youth Cabinet, the Grant Review Committee (GRC) is a volunteer panel made up of diverse youth from across the city of Toronto, including Indigenous, Black and/or 2SLGBTQ+ youth. All eligible and shortlisted INI grant applications will be reviewed by the GRC who will make the INI grant recommendations for approval.

Grant Review Committee – Managing Conflict of Interest

The members of the Grant Review Committee (GRC) will adhere to the City's Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy and will be trained by City staff. All GRC members must attest to their impartiality before the application review process begins. Community members who supported the development of proposals, are a member of a group that has submitted a proposal or will financially gain from the approval of a proposal cannot participate in the review process. It is important to note that a conflict of interest also occurs when a community member's family, friends, or the organizations they support may benefit from decisions made by the panel members. If conflicts of interest are not declared and emerge once the review process has begun, the City reserves the right to revise the review process to ensure adherence to the policy.

Project Impact and Reporting

All successful grant recipients will be required to report on project activities, expenses, impact and learnings. City staff will provide successful grant recipients with training on how to conduct project evaluation and will provide support to grant recipient groups on how to complete the final report.

For additional resources, please refer to the Evaluation tools found on the [YouthRex](#) website.



Image from Mental Health Matters

How to Apply

The application process steps are described below:

1. Review the grant guidelines to ensure your group/organization and project proposal are eligible to apply for funding.
2. Attend an optional grant information session if you have any questions about the application process.
3. Register your group on the [Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives \(TGRIP\) Portal](#) if you have not created a TGRIP account before. Review the instructions on [How to Register for a TGRIP Account](#) or watch the [TGRIP video](#) before you begin your application.
4. Complete your group's eligibility self-assessment found on the City of Toronto's online grant system – [TGRIP](#) (Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal):
5. Complete and submit your INI online grant application, including your project budget and work plan.

Only eligible and complete applications will be considered for funding.

A copy of the INI application questions can be found on the [INI webpage](#). Resources are listed below to help support you with your application.

Note: Only one INI grant application per group is permitted.

Tip: We highly recommend that you draft your application in a separate document before filling out the online form. Give yourself enough time to complete the application. While generally problem-free, technical errors can happen during this process and could result in you losing your responses before you are able to submit them.



HOW TO REGISTER FOR A TGRIP ACCOUNT

In order to apply for any grants, your group must have a Toronto Grants, Rebates, Incentives Portal (TGRIP) Account. To register, click here for the website: [Toronto Grants, Rebates, Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#).

STEPS

1. Once on the TGRIP website, click REGISTER HERE. Fill out the form accordingly and click submit. For grassroots, resident-led or youth-led groups, please provide your group's name in the Organization's Legal Name section. You will receive an email to complete your registration.
2. Once you log into your TGRIP account, the next step is to complete your organization profile. Click on the Organization Profile tab located in the top right hand corner of your dashboard.
3. Please ensure you complete every tab. Remember to click SAVE DRAFT when moving from tab to tab. Once completed, click SUBMIT. Key things to flag:
 - a. If you are a resident-led or grassroots organization, please select YES for the question: Is your group a resident-led group leading a project in your neighbourhood? under the Organization Info tab.
 - b. Please download the Declaration of Discrimination form located in the Documents tab, sign and upload it.
4. Once your organization profile has been submitted, you can now apply for your funding opportunity (grant).

Note: Once you have created a organization profile, you are able to add as many organization contacts as you like under the contacts tab

[CLICK HERE FOR A VIDEO WALKTHROUGH: HOW TO REGISTER FOR A TGRIP ACCOUNT](#)

Accessibility Supports

Supports are available (e.g., documents in alternate formats, sign-language interpreters, off-hour meetings) to ensure that groups can fully participate in the funding process. For any accessibility requests, please contact Grace Liu, Community Funding Unit, by email at Grace.Liu@toronto.ca

Business Information Statement

As stated in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 2(2.1) and 2(2.2), information collected on this form/collection/application is considered business identity information. Business identity information could be publicly available and/or disclosed upon request unless an exception applies.

Questions about this collection can be directed to Jennifer Hoffman, Community Funding Manager at 416-392-0102 or email Jennifer.Hoffman@toronto.ca using your business email account.

Resources

[Identify 'N Impact Grant Program Flyer](#)

[City of Toronto Community Grants Policy](#)

[Grant Writing Tips - Toronto Arts Council](#)

[Grant Writing Toolkits, Video & Resources – ArtReach](#)

[Ontario Not-For-Profit Network – Resource Centre](#)

[Youth Outcomes Framework](#)

[Youth-Friendly Measures & Evaluation Tools – Youth Rex](#)

[Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#)

[Toronto Youth Cabinet](#)

[TGRIP Website](#)

How to Register for a Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives (TGRIP) Account: [VIDEO](#)

For Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) technical questions, please contact TGRIP@toronto.ca

Virtual Grant Information Sessions

These virtual sessions will walk through the INI grant guidelines and online application form, including the project work plan and budget. City staff will also provide some grant writing tips and best practices. Registration is not required. The dates, times, and Microsoft Teams links are listed below. You only need to attend one session, and attendance is optional.

Thursday, July 17, 4 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

[Teams Link](#)

Note: If requested, please enter your name and email address. Meeting ID: 267 615 390 268 0
Passcode: Re6tt2Pp

Or by phone: Call Canada Toll: +1-647-749-7152 Phone conference ID: 963 512 021#

Wednesday, July 30, 4:30 P.M. – 6 P.M.

[Teams Link](#)

Note: If requested, please enter your name and email address. Meeting ID: 213 853 993 267 9
Passcode: Xp6Yo6tb

Or by phone: Call Canada Toll: +1-647-749-7152 Phone conference ID: 744 715 870#

We are here to support you. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a virtual or phone meeting, please contact the following staff:

Asmaa Mohamed, Youth Development Unit: asmaa.mohamed@toronto.ca

Grace Liu, Community Funding Unit: grace.liu@toronto.ca

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR YOUR
TGRIP ACCOUNT AND SUBMIT YOUR INI
GRANT APPLICATION](#)**