

2027

IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT

GRANT GUIDELINES

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Identify 'N Impact Grant Information

Background

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.

What is the purpose of the grant?

Since 2006, the purpose of the Identify 'N Impact (INI) grant program has been to promote youth engagement and community safety in the city of Toronto while supporting young people in turning their ideas into meaningful action. The program focuses on empowering youth-led groups and motivating MVP youth to become actively involved in their communities. MVP is an acronym found in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) that stands for “Most Vulnerable People,” referring to youth most at risk of involvement in serious violence and crime.

The Identify 'N Impact grant program is:

- project-based funding that provides **youth, ages 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 to help support youth-led groups

The Identify 'N Impact grant program 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 adult-led agencies or organizations to apply on behalf of youth

- for individuals (artists, motivational speakers, athletes, etc.)
- for foundations
- for projects outside of Toronto
- for 2025 and 2026 INI grant recipients, as those groups are not eligible to reapply until 2028
- 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, universities, day-cares, group homes, and hospitals
- for organizations/groups affiliated with a political party
- for religious groups with mandates that cannot show a clear separation between religious and community service functions
- for industry or trade associations
- for landlord / tenant and/or condominium corporations
- for employees of any division, agency, board or commission of the City of Toronto

What Activities are Eligible?

The INI grants support a by-youth-for-youth approach and initiatives that 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

Advancing Equity

Applications will be given priority if they:

- 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 in NIA or ENs – youth from and/or based in one of the 33 [Neighbourhood Improvement Areas](#) (NIAs) / 10 Emerging Neighbourhoods (ENs)
- are led by new, small, grassroots youth-led groups

Tip: Use the [Find Your Neighbourhood](#) tool [here](#) to find out the neighbourhood where you live or where you are hoping to offer your project activities. You can filter the results to view only the [Neighbourhood Improvement Areas](#) (NIAs).

Eligibility Requirements

The Identify 'N Impact Grant aims to support youth-led groups in Toronto. To be eligible, applicants and projects must meet the following criteria:

- To apply, you must be part of a youth-led group with at least three youth, ages 15-29 years old, who are residents of Toronto and do not reside in the same household.
- The primary applicant (group lead) for your Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) application must be a youth (ages 15-29 years old) residing in Toronto. If the primary applicant is not a youth, the application will be deemed ineligible.
- Group projects must be not-for-profit initiatives, offered free of charge, and take place within the City of Toronto. Indigenous-led groups may apply for funding specifically for Indigenous-based cultural activities outside of Toronto as per the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).
- Youth (ages 15-29 years old) are the leaders and main decision makers in the project planning/design, management, and delivery. 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 led not-for-profit groups that are not incorporated and do not have audited financial statements may still apply for INI funding. If recommended for funding, your group must work with a Trustee organization.
- A youth committee or initiative of a non-profit organization can apply if it is the applicant group and fully youth-led. 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.

- A youth committee or group from a religious organization may apply if it meets the criteria above for being youth-led and clearly demonstrates a separation between religious activities and community activities. Project activities must also be open and accessible to youth outside of the religious group's participants. Project activities cannot include any religious content.
- To be in good standing and eligible to receive a grant from the City of Toronto, all groups must comply with the [Grants Policy](#). Your group must not be indebted to the City of Toronto or any of its agencies, boards, and/or commissions, or be in default of terms and conditions of any agreement (including any previous grant agreement) with the City of Toronto
- To apply for the INI Grant, your group must have a [Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#) Account. Visit [TGRIP](#) to register or see additional information in the TGRIP section of these guidelines. Only applications submitted through the TGRIP platform will be considered.

Trusteeship

A trustee is an incorporated not-for-profit organization and/or registered charity with audited financial statements that becomes the "legal home" of your project. City staff will identify assigned trustees who will hold funds and disburse monies to your group according to the approved project budget, assume liability for project activities, and provide insurance, administrative supports and mentorship. A trustee can also provide capacity building (e.g., coaching, training, and planning templates) to help strengthen project effectiveness and delivery.

Dedicated Trustee Program

The City of Toronto's Community Funding Unit has launched a dedicated trusteeship program, which means the City will directly fund the trusteeship fees of the selected trustee non-profit organizational partners. All successful grant applicants will be assigned a Trustee through the dedicated trusteeship program at no cost to the funded group.

Funded INI groups are also able to work with their own trustee, as long as the City of Toronto's trusteeship requirements are met and approved by City staff. If you wish to work with your own trustee, the organization must complete [a trustee intake form](#). This form will help City staff assess the overall organizational health and ability of the organization to hold funds in trust for youth-led grassroots organizations.

If a funded group wants to work with their own trustee, the funded group may need to pay the trustee fee out of their INI funding - up to 20% of the total grant amount (i.e. the maximum allowed for trustee fees from the INI project budget). The trustee fee can be negotiated between the group and the organization. This process must be done independently. 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 the trustee organization's board members reside in the city of Toronto.
- Provide audited financial statements for (at minimum) the two most recent fiscal years.
- Be in good standing with the City of Toronto.
- Comply with the [City of Toronto Grants Policy](#).
- Have proven financial and program management experience.
- Completion of a trustee intake form by the trustee organization

Role of Adult Allies

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.

Grant Funding Amounts

INI project budget: Youth-led groups can apply for up to \$17,000 to lead and deliver INI projects. This grant cycle will award funding for projects that will take place between February 1, 2027 to November 30, 2027.

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 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
- 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 fee (If you chose not to participate in the dedicated Trustee program)
- Administrative costs of 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., printing, rental space).

Ineligible Use of Funds

Requests for the following purposes are not eligible for consideration.

- Projects and activities outside of Toronto.
 - Indigenous-led groups may apply for funding 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
- Subsidies for individuals (e.g., scholarships, educational bursaries, application fees such as post-secondary registration fees)
- Sports fees
- Political and religious activities
- Fundraising events
- Donations to charitable causes
- Debt repayment or deficit funding
- Capital costs. Note: Contact City staff about any capital cost line items prior to submitting your budget request as capital costs are not eligible for funding.

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. Every application is evaluated on merits. INI cannot fund the same project activities again.

Examples of Eligible Projects:

- In response to negative interactions with the police, a youth-led group developed a time-limited awareness campaign and a series of workshops to educate and inform youth about their rights.
- In response to the environmental challenges posed by fast fashion, a youth-led group organizes a series of clothing mending workshops alongside seasonal clothing swaps to promote sustainable fashion, creativity, and community engagement.
- To address social isolation and promote youth wellbeing, a youth-led group develops a youth-friendly mental health workshop series for local high school students, while also hosting bicycle repair clinics and bicycle safety workshops to encourage safe cycling practices and build confidence in biking to school.



- Image from RIPS Youth from the Multicultural Ability vs the Galaxy Showcase.

Project Impact and Reporting

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

Key Dates

INI Grant Activity	Key Dates
Grant Application Launch	July 17, 2026
Info Session #1 (Virtual)	July 23, 2026
Info Session #2 (Virtual)	August 5, 2026
Grant Submission Deadline	September 15, 2026 at Noon
Grant Application Review	October to December 2026
Grant Announcements	January 2027
Project Implementation	February 1, 2027-November 30, 2027
Final Report	December 31, 2027

Grant Review Process

Information Sessions

Information sessions are optional opportunities for applicants to ask questions and seek clarification about grant requirements. Information shared by applicants during these sessions may be documented by City staff and may inform eligibility assessments, particularly when clarification on an applicant's status or activities is required. Applicants will be informed of the purpose of these sessions, the potential impact of information shared, and their option to decline participation without penalty.

Eligibility Review

All applications will be screened for eligibility and shortlisting by City of Toronto staff. Applications that are determined to be eligible, feasible and in close alignment with the INI grant goals and priorities will be further assessed by members by the Grant Review Committee (GRC). Coordinated in partnership with the [Toronto Youth Cabinet](#), the 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 to the Executive Director, Social Development, for approval. Applicants must meet all mandatory criteria before their application is considered by the Grant Review Committee. City staff will document the basis for the screening decisions and shortlisting to ensure that they are aligned with the eligibility requirements published in these guidelines.

Use of publicly available information in Eligibility Screening

In addition to documents submitted through the application portal, staff may consult publicly available and reputable sources (e.g., organization websites, corporate registries, public filings, government records, etc.) to verify application information or assess eligibility. Applicants will be informed that publicly available information may be used as part of due diligence practices.

Managing Conflict of Interest

The City of Toronto requires all Grant Review Committee members to sign a Conflict-of-Interest form that ensures that any conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest are known. This means that any relationship between the funding decision-makers and those requesting funding are publicly documented. It also ensures that panel members with conflicts do not take part in deciding whether the group with whom they share an interest gets funded. Funding decisions must remain fair and perceived to be made without favouritism, are equitable and in the best interests of the City of Toronto.

The members of the Grant Review Committee will adhere to the City's Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy and will be recruited and trained by City staff in consultation with the Toronto Youth Cabinet. All committee members must attest to their impartiality before the review process begins. Community members who supported the development of proposals, are a member of a group that has submitted a proposal or will see financial gain from the approval of a proposal cannot participate in the review process of those proposals. 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.

Application Review

A group of diverse Toronto youth serving on the Grant Review Committee and City staff will review the applications against eligibility and assessment criteria for the INI grant to make recommendations for the final decision-making of successful applicants by the Executive Director of Social Development. Successful applicants will be selected based on the strength of their application, workplan and budget, including strong fit in advancing the goals of the INI grant program and alignment with grant priorities.

Grant Review Committee members are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement, which includes, but is not limited to, receiving and reviewing privileged information, publicly available information, personal, information, technical, financial or scientific information and any other records that must or may be kept confidential under the Municipal Freedom of Information of Privacy Act. All discussions, deliberations and recommendations for approval for the INI Grant must be kept confidential until City staff communicate approved recommended groups publicly.

Final Decision-making

The Executive Director (or designate decision-maker) of Social Development will consider multiple sources of information when making final funding decisions, which may include: the submitted application and required documents, Review Committee assessment results, staff verification notes, research memos, or due diligence findings through publicly available information relevant to eligibility or risk assessment. Applicants will be informed of the decision-making framework and the types of information that may contribute to final decisions.

Disclosure of Information

As mandated by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1990) s. 27 and By-Law 974-1998 all information collected, including personal information, may be subject to full public disclosure which may include posting to a website. Questions

about this collection can be directed to the Manager of Community Funding at City Hall, 15th floor, East Tower, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2, or by email at CommunityFunding@toronto.ca.

Application Process

The application process steps are described below:

1. Review these guidelines to ensure your group and project ideas are eligible for funding.
2. Attend an optional grant information session to learn more about the grant program and/or ask questions about the application process.
3. If your group already has a TGRIP account, you can log into your TGRIP account to access the INI grant application, found under “My Funding Opportunities.” Please make sure to update your organizational profile if any information has changed since you last logged on. The funding opportunity will be visible on your dashboard on July 17, 2026.
4. If your group does not have a TGRIP account, register your group on the [Toronto, Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal \(TGRIP\)](#). Review the instructions below on How to Register for a TGRIP Account.
5. Complete and submit your INI online application, including your project budget and workplan.

Note: Only one INI application per group is permitted.

Accessibility Supports, Accommodations and/or Different Format

If you would like accessibility support, accommodation and/or a different format, please email Grace Liu, Agency Review Officer at Grace.Liu@toronto.ca

How to Register for a TGRIP Account

In order to apply for INI 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 \(TGRIP\)](#)

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

STEPS

1. On the TGRIP website, click [REGISTER HERE](#). Fill out the form and click submit. For grassroots or resident-led youth-led groups, please provide your group 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 information to note:

- 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.
 - 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 an organization profile, you are able to add as many contacts as you like under the contacts tab.

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. The dates, times, and Microsoft Teams meeting links are listed below. Attendance is optional and the same information will be shared in all sessions.

Information Session #1	Join the meeting now
July 23, 2026	Meeting ID (Access Code): 227 507 753 705 492
6:00 -7:30 PM	Meeting Password: Xe6Ds6dd
	Follow the instructions that appear on your screen
	Or dial in by phone: + 1 647-749-7152
	Phone Conference ID: 412 110 078#

Information Session #2 August 5, 2026 6:30 -8:00 PM	Join the meeting now Meeting ID (Access Code): 220 796 447 040 198 Meeting Password: ys7uj9tn Follow the instructions that appear on your screen Or dial in by phone: + 1 647-749-7152 Phone Conference ID: 204 889 818#
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Resource Library

A collection of useful materials and resources to support your application.

- [Identify 'N Impact Grant Program Flyer](#)
- [City of Toronto Community Grants Policy](#)
- [Grant Writing Tips - Toronto Arts Council](#)
- [Grant Writing Toolkits, Video & Resources – ArtReach](#)
- [Youth Outcomes Framework Playbook](#)
- [Youth-Friendly Measures & Evaluation Tools – Youth Rex](#)
- [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#)
- [Find Your Neighbourhood](#)
- [Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives \(TGRIP\) Portal](#)

Need to get in touch?

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:

- Annakim Ffrench, Community Development Officer, Youth Development Unit: annakim.fffrench@toronto.ca
- Grace Liu, Agency Review Officer, Community Funding Unit: grace.liu@toronto.ca
- For Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) technical questions, please contact TGRIP@toronto.ca