

# Youth Development Initiative

## Community Projects

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### Funding Guidelines Overview

Youth Development Initiative (YDI) is a program that provides community-based project funding, for youth-at-risk ages 12 to 20, in Nova Scotia. The program, funded by Community Services, provides dependents of Employment Support and Income Assistance clients, and youth in the care of the Minister, with the opportunity to take part in a wide range of experiences to learn more about themselves, their career goals, and engage in their communities.

*The intent of this document is to provide community organizations and agencies with program eligibility information. Applications for funding must be made through the YDI Community Projects Application Form available online or through a local Community Services office.*

### Eligible Organizations or Agencies

Applicants for YDI funding must meet all of the following criteria:

- Provide proof of registration with the Registry of Joint Stocks (societies, partnerships, companies)
- Have completed the application package

- Demonstrate capacity to supervise project participants
- Demonstrate an understanding of the unique needs of eligible youth and the required capacity to meet those needs
- Willing to enter and abide by a contracted agreement as required by YDI

### Eligible Participants

Eligible youth participants must be:

- Nova Scotia residents, between the ages of 12–20 inclusive
- Dependents of ESIA; or
- Student family members; or
- Part of the Child, Youth, and Family Services Program; or
- A direct recipient of ESIA; or
- Attending Halifax Youth Attendance Centre, and working with ESS
- Are either currently enrolled in school or in an approved educational plan, or are returning to school.

\*Youth-at-risk, but who are not attached to Community Services, may be considered for the program as well. Please contact the Department for further information.

## Eligible Project Activities

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Personal Development
- Team Building
- Community Engagement
- Job Readiness
- Career Exploration/Planning
- Leadership
- Confidence Building
- Mentorship opportunities for youth
- Innovative community partnerships
- Creative community projects led by youth
- Short-Term Certificate training such as WHMIS, Physical or Mental Health First Aid, Forklift Operator, Food Handler Course
- Group-Based experiential learning opportunities, such as a wilderness camps

## Reporting Requirements

Mid-project report:

- Participant list that includes name, date of birth
- Overview of how project is going including challenges and successes

Final report:

- List of all activities and the effects on youth
- Highlight successes and challenges
- Participant list that includes name, date of birth, their YDI project, and outcomes
- Copies of all completed participant surveys

*For more information on the application process please contact 1-877-424-1177 and ask for your local Employment Support and Income Assistance office.*