

What is Planet Youth Timiskaming?

[Planet Youth Timiskaming](#) (PYT) is a community initiative to improve youth wellbeing and reduce early substance use. PYT focuses on strengthening protective factors and reducing risk factors in four key areas of young people's lives: [Family, Peers, School, and Leisure Time](#). By working together to foster positive environments in these areas, the initiative supports youth wellbeing and helps them to make healthier choices.

In Fall 2023, PYT surveyed 555 local grade 10 and 11 students to better understand youth well-being, substance use trends, and the community factors influencing them. Some key findings include:

- **61%** never or rarely participate in sports with a club or team
- **85%** never or rarely participate in arts, drama, dance or cultural activities.
- Only **26%** feel there are enough activities for youth in their community.
- Just **24% of girls** and **43% of boys** report that their mental health is good or very good.

The survey findings guide PYT's efforts to better support youth. The full survey results are available online:

<https://timiskamingyouth.ca/survey-findings/>

What is the Youth Activity Fund?

Planet Youth Timiskaming has time-limited funds available to support organizations with initiatives that align with one or both of the following **priority areas**:

- Increasing the accessibility, availability, and diversity of leisure-time activities for youth
- Strengthening youths' sense of belonging and connection to their community.

Details and requirements:

- Use the **Funding Request Form** to apply for up to \$1,500 per initiative. Using point form is encouraged.
 - If your initiative requires more funds, please contact us to discuss.
- Funding requests must be submitted by **March 2, 2025**.
- The Youth Activity Fund is intended to **enhance current youth programs and initiatives** or **start new ones**.
- Preference is given to **youth-led initiatives** or adult-led projects informed by youth input.
- **Eligible applicants** include non-profits, schools, municipalities, libraries, churches, Indigenous organizations, and local associations within the [Timiskaming District](#) + Temagami (i.e. must serve an area from Temagami in the south, Kirkland Lake to the north, Elk Lake to the west, and Belle Vallée to the east), and where applicable have appropriate protections in place for engaging with youth (e.g., insurance, volunteers with completed vulnerable sector checks).
 - **Individuals are not eligible** to apply **but can collaborate with an eligible group**.
 - If you're not sure if you qualify, or if you need help finding an eligible group to partner with, please reach out to Erika.Aelterman@neph.ca for support and ideas.

- Recipients will receive a cheque for project costs. Receipts are not required.
- Recipients must complete a short feedback form at the completion of the project about how the funds were spent, outcomes met, and participation numbers.
- Funded projects must:
 - Include the **Planet Youth Timiskaming logo** on promotional materials.
 - Track participation numbers for reporting purposes. Contact us if you need support.

Important dates!

- **Deadline to submit your application: March 2, 2025.**
- **Notification to successful grant recipients: by March 14, 2025.**
- **Deadline to spend funds: December 31, 2025.**
- Feedback form to be submitted 30 days after your project has been completed.

Contact:

For any questions or support completing your application, email: Erika.Aelterman@neph.ca

Project examples to inspire you:

- ★ Organize “try-it” days and open houses for youth activities.
- ★ Creating or improve spaces for youth
- ★ Provide transportation to youth activities
- ★ Start or enhance a youth club or after school program
- ★ Support volunteers leading youth activities (e.g. training, honorariums)
- ★ Host family game nights, picnics, or cooking sessions.
- ★ Offer intergenerational programming.
- ★ Run workshops or training sessions for youth to learn new skills.
- ★ Purchase program supplies (i.e. food, clothing, equipment, etc.)
- ★ Lead a youth mural project.
- ★ Develop leadership skills in youth.
- ★ Drop-in sport nights