

Youth Activity Fund: Application Guide



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What is Planet Youth Timiskaming?

[Planet Youth Timiskaming](#) (PYT) is a community initiative to improve youth wellbeing and address the root causes of 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 is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada's Youth Substance Use Prevention Program.

PYT has funds available to support organizations with initiatives that align with one or both of the following **priority areas**:

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

Important dates!

- **Deadline to submit your application: January 5, 2026**
- **Notification to successful grant recipients: by January 16, 2026**
- **Deadline to spend funds: March 31, 2026**
- **Feedback form to be submitted 30 days after your project has been completed.**

Details and requirements:

- Use the Funding Request Form to apply.
 - Using point form is encouraged.
- Applicants may request funding up to \$3,000.

- Funding requests must be submitted by **January 5, 2026**.
- Funds are intended to **improve or expand** current youth programs and initiatives or **start new ones**.
- Preference is given to youth-led initiatives or adult-led projects informed by youth needs/voice.
- **Eligible applicants** include non-profits, schools, school boards, municipalities, libraries, churches, Indigenous organizations, community centres, 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.
- Successful applicants will be asked to complete a **Vendor Electronic Payment form** to be paid electronically.
- **Successful applicants must spend all awarded funds by March 31, 2026.**
- **All purchases must be supported by receipts.** You do not need to submit these receipts, but your organization must keep them on file for six years in case the project is audited. If your organization does not wish to retain the receipts, you may submit them to us for storage.
- If for any reason you can no longer spend the funds, please let us know as soon as possible so we can reallocate it to other Planet Youth Timiskaming initiatives.
- Successful applicants are required to complete a brief survey to report back on the impact and any successes of the funding. Selected initiatives may also be contacted for an interview. Groups are also encouraged to submit photographs and/or testimonials from participants.
- Funded projects must:
 - Include the **Planet Youth Timiskaming logo** on promotional materials.
 - At minimum, track participation numbers for reporting purposes.

Contact:

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

Project examples to inspire you:

- ★ See the list of projects funded in March 2025: <https://timiskamingyouth.ca/youth-activity-fund-2/>
- ★ Purchase program supplies (i.e. food, clothing, equipment, activity passes, transit tickets, etc.)
- ★ Organize “try-it” days and open houses for youth activities.
- ★ Create 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.
- ★ Lead a youth mural project
- ★ Develop leadership skills in youth.
- ★ Drop-in sport nights
- ★ Offer land-based learning