

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS
In Youth We Trust YOUTH Grant Cycle
GRANT GUIDELINES



Annual Award Information: \$20,000 Available to Award \$3,000 Maximum Request Amount

Application Opens	Application Deadline	In Person Interview	Notification	Final Reports Due
October 31st	1st Friday in January	3rd Saturday in January	End of January	June 1st

The In Youth We Trust (IYWT) Council is a youth philanthropy program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL). Established with a grant from the Ford Foundation in 1994 and endowed by a local donor, this program teaches grantmaking, volunteerism, and leadership skills to today's youth, preparing them to be the positive change of tomorrow. Since its inception, IYWT has granted over \$500,000 to youth projects in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties. Through this journey, both the IYWT Council and the grantees gain in-depth experiential knowledge of the nonprofit sector and the needs of their community. This knowledge will add to their growing skill set and benefit them long into their adult lives.

The IYWT Council is made up of high school-aged students from Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. We aspire to build a diverse group of students who are engaged in their community, critical thinkers, open to others, and dedicated to improving the world around them.

This document describes who can apply for the IYWT Youth Grant, how they can apply, and what kind of charitable activities are eligible to receive funding. While we would be happy to clarify any aspect of our application, CFNIL and IYWT do not offer specific guidance on the design or implementation of your proposed activity during the open application period.

Eligibility and Funding Rules

All youth applicants must have a sponsoring or parent organization that is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (if you are new non-profit, you will need to have your IRS Determination Letter by the application deadline) **OR** a religious organization, unit of government, or public university/college.



Books for 3rd graders.

Applicants must:

Propose a charitable activity that is both driven by and benefit local youth in **Boone, Ogle, Stephenson or Winnebago** counties.

Have a proposed project planned and implemented by individuals that are **19 years old or younger**.

Involve youth in every aspect of the grantmaking process.

IYWT looks for a proposal that:

Promotes collaboration and teamwork.

Provides solutions to community issues.

Helps youth recognize the important role they play within their communities.

Has a clear and practical plan for implementation.

Has a realistic budget.

Has measurable and meaningful results.

IYWT will not fund:

*Individuals-you must be part of an organization

*For-profit organizations

*Adult-inspired and adult-implemented programs. *Adult advisors may provide guidance, but are not allowed to write the application or be the primary organizers of the project.*

*Salaries for adult advisors or coordinators

*Projects/programs that promote a religion or require participation in religious activities as a condition for receiving services. *Grants may be made to faith-based organizations for other purposes.*

*Projects or organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national/ethnic origin, political beliefs, veteran's status, disability, or any other factor prohibited by applicable law.



Types of Projects We Fund

All proposals should address an issue that youth in your community face.

Funding is for a **spring semester idea**. Your plan must be executed between February and early June. You will submit a final report by June 1st.

Your project must be one of the following:

Event: The duration of the charitable activity described in the proposal is less than a week.

Project: The duration of the charitable activity described in the proposal has a beginning and ending date, and lasts between one week and three years.

Program: The duration of the charitable activity described in the proposal is ongoing.

Capital/Commodity: If you are purchasing equipment, a commodity, or making a minor capital improvement that will allow you to serve or further your ability to serve youth. If a capital/commodity purchase is not the primary expense of a charitable activity, choose Event/Project/Program as appropriate.

Parts of a Grant Application

Organization Information- Name of your student org and the 501c3 that is sponsoring you

Contact information- You will need a youth contact, an adult contact, and the information for where the adult org can receive checks

Project Information- You will need a title for your project and basic information about how much you requesting, which spring dates your project will occur on, who will be involved, and the purpose of the project.

Promotion- You will share how you will let the community know about your project and how the impact will be celebrated.

Community Need and Results- You will need to think about who your project will serve and how you will know if it is successful.

Finances- You will fill out two charts to show IYWT how much you will spend on your project and how much you are raising to cover the costs. You may be getting money from other sources beside the IYWT grant.

How We Choose

The IYWT Council is committed to a fair and objective proposal review process. Rubrics based on the guidelines help the council stay true to their mission.

The IYWT Council reviews and recommends grant proposals for approval by the CFNIL Board of Trustees. CFNIL Trustees, Council members, and CFNIL staff adhere to carefully considered conflict of interest and confidentiality policies throughout the review and approval process. Before the Council makes their decision, your group may be asked to come in for an interview.

Grant award decisions are final. CFNIL Trustees, IYWT Council members, and staff are prohibited from discussing the details of committee deliberations with any grant applicant.

Applying is as easy as 1,2,3

1. Head to our website www.cfnil.org/grants/youth
2. Download the application and work with your youth organization to type your responses. Make sure to save your work!
3. Email your completed application to iywt@cfnil.org by 5pm on the deadline.



IYWT 2023-2024
Grantees

