



LAIDLAW FOUNDATION

Supporting Young People to Organize and Drive Social Change

2017 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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LAIDLAW FOUNDATION

Vision & Mission

We envision an inclusive society that values and supports the full engagement of young people in the civic, social, economic and cultural life of diverse and environmentally healthy communities.

We invest in innovative ideas, convene interested parties, share our learning and advocate for change, all in support of young people being healthy, creative and fully engaged citizens.

Our Focus & Approach

We focus our work on understanding, identifying, addressing, and eliminating the barriers that limit young people's prospects for growing and fully contributing to society. To this end, we invest in youth-led strategies that create opportunities for all young people to fully participate and contribute to society. We pride ourselves on being bold and willing to take informed risks to further equity and inclusion. Our approach:

- is grounded in the experiences and insights of young people and their allies;
- confronts and works to dismantle systemic barriers to access and inclusion;
- supports strategies that are forward thinking, scalable, and results-oriented;
- is focused on systemic change while responding to immediate community priorities; and
- is evidence-based and builds on effective approaches and practices.

Our Granting Tools: Supporting Young People to Organize and Drive Social Change

We recognize that young people take action in immediate ways and address community and systemic issues that seem insurmountable. In revamping our granting strategies, we are investing in three inter-connected strategies that will empower young people in their roles as community leaders and have a significant impact on advancing inclusion and wellbeing of young people. These strategies are:

- YOUTH DIRECT ACTION:** Investing in young people to test and experiment with bold and creative ways to make our communities, institutions and systems more inclusive.
- SCALING IMPACT:** Investing in young people to scale/deepen the impact of promising work.
- KNOWLEDGE BUILDING:** Investing in research, policy-advocacy and communications strategies that ensure our youth partner's efforts are recognized and contribute to lasting change.

YOUTH DIRECT ACTION

I. Overview

Youth Direct Action supports young people to respond boldly and collectively to community challenges. In doing so, it invests in youth-led projects that demonstrate creative, relevant and accessible ways of reaching young people who are not engaged effectively by educational, social and community services; bring attention to social justice and community priorities of young people; and work towards having young people's perspectives and priorities heard by decision makers.

II. Objectives

- Increase youth leadership opportunities, prioritizing young people directly affected by the systems, services or issues the project is addressing.
- Cultivate new ideas and promotes innovative approaches to confronting community challenges.
- Inform and provide insights into ways to improve policies and services meant to support young people.
- Foster collaboration and support reciprocal learning among relevant partners and across generations working on the frontlines of change.
- Help build the capacity of youth-led groups to be strong advocates and voices for the priorities of their communities.

III. Eligibility

We are seeking young, passionate partners who are committed to bringing about positive social change in their communities. We encourage applications from youth-led groups who are directly affected by or have personal experience with the policies, practices and systems that their projects focus on and seek to improve. Applicants must:

- be aged 14-29, living in Ontario,
- have adequate and established supports (peer mentors, adult allies, or other partners) in place.

IV. Funding

There are two types of Youth Direct Action grants offered:

- **Project Grants** of up to \$25 000 to support action projects that are generally 6 to 18 months in duration. Action projects will:
 - demonstrate creative, relevant and accessible ways of reaching young people who are not being engaged effectively by educational, social and community services,
 - bring attention to social justice and community priorities of young people and
 - work towards having young people's perspectives and priorities heard by decision makers.
- **PopUp Grants** up to \$1000 to support short-term projects focused on timely and specific issue areas. Themes are identified based on current events and trends that emerge through the applications to the Foundation's other granting programs and in consultations with our community partners.

V. Applying for Funding & Key Dates

Applying for a Project Grant is a two-step process that begins with submitting an expression of interest (EOI). EOIs that meet program priorities may be requested to submit a full application.

Applying for a PopUP grant is a one step process of submitting an expression of interest.

- **Project Grant Expression of Interest Deadline:** TBD, likely Winter 2018.
- **PopUP Grant Application Deadline:** TBD, likely October 2017.

For more information on application intake, please see pg. 6-7 of this guideline.

SCALING IMPACT

I. Overview

Scaling Impact supports youth-led groups, youth-driven organizations and their leaders with a proven program or idea, which has made a significant contribution to the inclusion and wellbeing of young people, to enhance and expand their impact and influence. More specifically, it invests in groups that:

- have demonstrated relevant and effective approaches for reaching and meeting the needs of underserved young people;
- are advocates that engage with and work to influence decision-makers;
- have solid and appropriate partnerships in place; and
- are recognized as an important and essential service/space/advocate by the young people they reach and other stakeholders.

II. Objectives

- Increase the capacity of youth-led groups that have interventions/ideas with proven impact and need supports to scale and opportunities to be more impactful.
- Support youth-driven organizations that are operating successful programs and services primed to go to scale. This may include program expansion beyond current level by growing in size and coverage and/or adding new areas of activity that will increase the organization's impact.
- Support young leaders working on the frontlines of social change to further the skills and competencies they need to be effective.

III. Eligibility

We are seeking partners who enable young people to lead efforts to change the systems that directly affect their lives and respond to challenges facing youth in bold and creative ways. Priority will be given to former Laidlaw grantees. Applicants must be:

- youth-driven or youth-led, keeping youth at the centre of the organization/group at all times;
- effective leaders in their field, working to promote inclusion and wellbeing of young people in Ontario;
- willing to share results, knowledge and resources among stakeholders; and
- based and active in Ontario.

IV. Funding

Applicants can apply for grants of up to three years. Grants will generally range from \$50 000-

\$100 000/year depending on the nature of the activities and operational needs of the group. These grants support activities that will scale and deepen impact and include leadership and professional development supports.

V. Applying for Funding & Key Dates

Applying for a Scaling Impact grant is a two-step process that begins with submitting an expression of interest.

- **Expression of Interest Deadline:** September 25, 2017.
- **Notification of whether a full application is being requested:** By October 9th, 2017.
*If a full application is requested, it will be due by the end of October 2017.

For more information on application intake, please see pg. 6-7 of this guideline.

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

I. Overview

We invest in research, policy, advocacy and communications strategies that ensure our partner's efforts are recognized and contribute to lasting change. Through Knowledge Building grants, we will collaborate with community partners, experts, think tanks, and research institutes to respond to knowledge gaps to further youth inclusion and equity.

More specifically, our work to date has focused on understanding, identifying and eliminating barriers and challenges to equitable access to education for underserved youth; access to services for youth on remand; and the policy and legislative barriers to grassroots, youth-led work. Moving forward, we are seeking:

- projects that have identified a clear need where data/evidence is required to further wellbeing and inclusion of underserved young people and/or,
- partners who have evidence that needs to be shared in accessible and relevant ways to support policy, program and service changes to benefit young people facing exclusion.

II. Objectives

- Identify and respond to specific knowledge needs raised by our grantees and other stakeholders working to advance youth inclusion and wellbeing to inform the Foundation's work and the wider field.
- Build knowledge around a specific issue where there is a clear need for data to inform the design and implementation of policy-advocacy strategies.
- Communicate unique insights and learnings derived from the projects we are supporting for uptake by institutions/service providers, policy-makers and community practitioners.
- Support collaborative approaches to research, communications and/or policy-advocacy strategies that bring institutions, researchers, practitioners and young people with lived experiences together in design and implementation.

III. Eligibility

Applications from individuals, organizations and collaboratives will be accepted. Institutional affiliation is

not a requirement. In general, we are seeking partners and projects that will:

- Generate new knowledge or apply existing knowledge in an innovative manner.
- Demonstrate that the proposed methods are appropriate, robust and proportionate to the project aims, and described in sufficient detail for us to assess their suitability to address clear research questions.

IV. Funding

One-time or multi-year grants will be considered for:

- Research activities that fill knowledge gaps, inform the Foundation's work, and/or supports policy development.
- Communications, convening, cultural productions/publications/digital media and other knowledge mobilization activities clearly linked to sharing evidence/learnings.

V. Applying for Funding & Key Dates

Applying for a Knowledge Building grant is a two-step process that begins with submitting an expression of interest.

- **Expression of Interest Deadline:** September 25, 2017
- **Notification of whether a full application is being requested:** By October 9th, 2017

*If a full application is requested, it will be due by the end of October 2017.

APPLICATION INTAKE

An expression of interest (EOI) is the first step for prospective applicants. If you are interested in seeking funding from Youth Direct Action, Scaling Impact or Knowledge Building, you will answer a few questions about yourself and provide a preliminary outline of your intended project. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the [Program Managers](#) to discuss their expression of interest in advance of applying.

Based on your expression of interest, you may be invited to submit a full application where you will have the opportunity to refine the specifics and offer further details of your project. You will also be required to submit a detailed budget, workplan, confirmation of partnerships, and other supplementary materials. Please note that the Foundation will not consider full applications from applicants that did not receive an invitation following their expression of interest submission and an invitation is not a guarantee of funding.

Expression of interests will only be accepted through the Foundation's [online portal](#). After submitting your expression of interest electronically, you will receive an email confirmation of its receipt. If you do not receive confirmation within one business day of making your submission, please contact Foundation staff. Please note that if you are applying for a PopUP Grant under the Youth Direct Action Program, your expression of interest will serve as the full application.

In your expression of interest, you will be asked to provide the following information:

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TEMPLATE FOR ALL FUNDING STREAMS	
A. Contact Information	
B. Organization Details / Applicant Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Status (Charitable/Incorporated/Unincorporated/Individual) b. Purpose (mission & vision) including why you formed and how long have you been working together (only required for unincorporated groups) c. Youth leadership (How are young people involved in leadership) d. Population supported & reach (age, gender, geographic setting)
C. Program You Are Applying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Youth Direct Action b. Scaling Impact c. Knowledge Building
D. Project Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project title b. Amount requested c. Grant amount per project year (for multi-year grants) d. Project length e. Project start date f. Project summary (100 words)
E. Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why is this project needed? What needs and purposes will you be addressing? (300 words) b. What are your main activities? (100 words) c. What will be different because of the work you do through this grant (expected impact on your group, the communities and young people you are reaching)? (300 words)
F. Financial Information (please see below for eligible and ineligible expenses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the main project costs?

Assessment

Expressions of interest will be assessed by Foundation staff based on the following criteria:

- Applicant is eligible for the funding stream. Please note that for Youth Direct Action and Scaling Impact, young people must be in clear leadership and decision-making roles in the group/organization.
- Applicant demonstrates they have the ability to carry out the project and deliver.
- There is a clear alignment between the proposed project and the program priorities.
- Project activities are clear and can be accomplished in a realistic timeframe.

- The amount requested is reasonable and aligns with project activities and deliverables.

Eligible Expenses

- Salaries, honoraria, stipends
- Transportation, food, childcare and other expenses that make project activities accessible to young people and other stakeholders
- Administrative costs associated with the project
- Project materials and small equipment/technology as long as it is directly related to the project

Ineligible Expenses

- Fundraising campaigns
- Capital projects
- Direct financial support to for-profit enterprises
- Endowments
- Ongoing operating expenses that are unrelated to the proposed project
- Projects involving Partisan political activities
- Projects involving strictly religious purposes or activities