

What is Youth Opportunities?

The Youth Opportunities program provides one-off, time-limited grants of up to \$50,000 to non-government organisations and local government to fund new projects that enable young people to participate in community development activities.

The Youth Opportunities program is based on evidence which shows that with the proper support and opportunity all young people can address and overcome a range of risk factors in their lives.

Projects funded under the Youth Opportunities program are expected to involve young people in all aspects of the project (initiating, leading, managing and participating). Projects which are genuinely youth-led and youth-driven are those initiated by young people in response to what they have said they need.

Key Principles

Youth Opportunities is based on the principles of:

- inclusiveness for all young people
- community participation
- community service (including volunteering)
- partnering with young people in the development of community based networks.

Objectives

The program's objectives are to:

1. increase the number of youth-led and youth-driven community activities throughout NSW
2. engage young people in projects which overcome barriers to participation in the community
3. enable young people to develop and strengthen teamwork, communication, leadership and decision-making skills
4. improve young people's access to community-based activities that promote community involvement including sport and recreation, cultural and other activities
5. recognise the contribution that young people make to their local communities
6. provide young people with the knowledge and skills to link them with further training and employment opportunities, or improve their educational outcomes.

Who can apply for funding?

To be eligible for funding the organisation must either be an incorporated non-Government not-for-profit organisation or a local government authority.

Program exclusions apply. See *Program Guidelines* available at www.youth.nsw.gov.au for a full list of program exclusions.

How to apply for funding

Non-government organisations and local government in NSW are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 to conduct a Youth Opportunities project for up to 12 months. Project funding cannot be extended beyond 2018.

All applicants must complete and submit an online application for funding which is available at www.youth.nsw.gov.au.

The below guidelines are also available on the www.youth.nsw.gov.au website to assist with understanding of the program and application requirements:

- Program Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Help Guide for Applicants
- Application Question Guide

Key Dates

Applications for funding open	9:00am Monday, 22 May 2017
Applications for funding close	5:00pm Monday, 26 June 2017
Successful applicants announced	October 2017
Contract negotiations	November 2017
Projects to commence	January 2018

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