

2021 Durham Youth Leadership Fund - Community Grant Program

Grant Award Term:	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
Total grant awards:	\$500 - \$20,000 (up to 15 awards, total)
Who can apply:	Young people, community groups, and organizations
To apply:	Submit Interest Form at bit.ly/DYLFfund ; for paper applications, see “Questions” section on page 3
Deadline:	Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 11:59pm
Information Sessions:	English Session: April 20 from 6-7pm, register at bit.ly/DYLFInfo Spanish Session: April 27 from 6-7pm, register at bit.ly/FLJDInfo
FAQs:	bit.ly/DYLFfaq

The Durham Youth Leadership Fund (DYLF) is a unique opportunity for the [City of Durham Office on Youth](#) (OOY) to invest in the leadership and dreams of young people in Durham, NC. The DYLF will fund projects that: create meaningful leadership and decision making opportunities for young people; help address some of the key themes from the [Durham Youth Listening Project](#); and respond to current COVID-19 needs.

With funding support from the [Durham County Non-Profit Funding Program](#), the DYLF will fund up to \$100,000 in grant awards for community-based projects that support: Black, Latinx, and Indigenous youth; LGBTQ+ youth; immigrant and migrant youth; youth who have experienced economic hardships, homelessness, interactions with law enforcement, or being pushed out of institutions, including education environments; youth who have recently aged out of foster care; and youth with disabilities, including physical, mental, and developmental.

The DYLF is focused on young people ages 13-24 years. All mentions of “youth” and “young people” refer to this age range.

Focus Areas

We’re looking for ideas straight from your heart that build meaningful connections and create a more welcoming, engaging, and supportive Durham for young people. For more information about what this looks like, please review the [Durham Youth Listening Project](#) report.

The DYLF will fund people, groups, and organizations working on one or more of these focus areas:

- 1. Creating welcoming and supportive spaces and places for young people and their families**
 - Examples of activities that could be funded: Art, recreation, and music programs; training for staff who work with youth in topics such as racial equity, adultism, and restorative justice; community and cultural events; training and events for wellness and mental/emotional wellbeing; supports that make spaces and places more accessible to young people; and mentorship programs, including between older (20-24 years) and younger (13-16 years) youth.
- 2. Creating new opportunities for youth leadership and engagement**
 - Examples of activities that could be funded: Stipends and consultant fees for young people in new decision-making and leadership opportunities; community and youth engagement events, like listening sessions and summits; training and support for adults to understand “adultism”; training and support for young people to take on leadership roles; and seed funding for young people who want to develop an idea and/or launch an initiative or organizing effort that supports the community.

3. Providing COVID Emergency Relief Funds for young people and their families

- Examples of activities that could be funded: Direct response to unexpected financial challenges young people and families are facing due to COVID-19. Funds could support needs such as, but not limited to, rent assistance, mental health, food, transportation, and emergency aid for college students. **This focus area will not receive more than 20% (\$20,000) of the total funds awarded (\$100,000).**

Who Can Apply?

Young people (ages 13-24 years) who live in the City of Durham and/or Durham County are eligible to apply for Focus Areas 1 and 2.

- Young people working with other young people/adult community members
- Young people leading in partnership with community organizations, non-profit organizations, or neighborhood associations
- A young person working alone, who can show either a planned future partnership with others and/or a plan to hear from others in the community before and during their project

Organizations and organized groups based and working in the City of Durham and/or Durham County are eligible to apply for Focus Areas 1, 2, and 3.

- An established group (such as an activity club, PTA, community organization, non-profit organization, or neighborhood association) that can show partnership and consultation with young people.
- Partnership between groups is encouraged. Two or more groups may submit either one joint proposal or separate proposals for a shared project.
 - If submitting separate proposals for a shared project: Each group's proposal should clearly outline the role of their group. There is a place on the Interest Form to say if your proposal is linked to another proposal. Linked proposals will be reviewed together, so make sure to talk about how the proposals will work together to achieve common goals.

NOT eligible to apply: Local government agencies, schools, and businesses. Otherwise eligible groups that cannot demonstrate partnership and/or consultation with young people.

Grant Award Details and Expectations

- For any grant awards over \$2,500, the awarded organization or group must have legal and/or tax exempt status, like a non-profit organization or a Limited Liability Company (LLC).
 - **Applicants that do not have a non-profit or LLC status, AND are submitting a proposal for over \$2,500 will need a "fiscal sponsor"**. A fiscal sponsor is an organization with legal and/or tax exempt status and has agreed to receive the grant award on the applicant's behalf. *(If you need support finding a fiscal sponsor, the OoY may be able to help. There is a place on the Interest Form to tell us if you need this.)*
- The DYLF **cannot** fund things like: fines and penalties; utility fees (electricity, gas, water, etc); equipment with a value of more than \$2,000; food costs over \$1,000; and building structures.
- Awards will be made in one or two payments, depending on the total award amount. Payment arrangements will be made during Step 3 of the application process.

- Awarded grantees will participate in a few meetings throughout the year with the OOH team and also other grantees to share progress updates. A final report will be due by June 2022 summarizing the project's activities.

Application Process

Note: Spanish language access will be incorporated into all steps of the process.

- **STEP 1:** Submit an Interest Form [here \[bit.ly/DYLFund\]](https://bit.ly/DYLFund) by 11:59pm on Sunday, May 2, 2021. *(Click [here](#) to view a PDF of the Interest Form before you begin.)*
- **STEP 2:** Selected applicants will be invited to pitch their proposals to the Youth-Adult Grant Making Team in a virtual session sometime mid to late May 2021. *(Applicants who need help preparing their pitches can request additional support from the OOH.)*
- **STEP 3:** Finalists are notified and will complete paperwork to finalize their agreement with the City of Durham, sometime mid to late June 2021.
- **STEP 4:** Projects begin July 1, 2021!

How will we choose who gets funded?

The Youth-Adult Grant Making Team includes young people and adults who represent multiple identities and lived experiences. They will prioritize proposals that: are submitted by young people; show collaboration between groups; and use creative and innovative approaches. They will use the criteria and questions below to decide which projects are chosen for funding:

- **Can it be done?** Is the project possible, given the cost, timeframe, and the applicant's ability to do the work? Is it likely to have its desired impact?
- **What's the impact?** Is the project meeting a need in the community, whether related to COVID-19 or something else? Whose lives will be better as a result? Will young people with the identities and experiences being prioritized benefit?
- **Is it a good fit?** Is the project connected to the focus areas and overall goals of this program? Is youth leadership and youth decision making part of the proposal?
- **Is the applicant connected to the community?** Does the applicant understand the needs of Durham? Does the applicant have existing connections to community members and/or plans to connect with community members during and after the project?
- **Is there accountability?** Will young people and the community know what is being done and be engaged during and after the project? Will the team be able to do the work in a way that is responsive to the needs of the community?

Questions? We're here to help support applicants through all steps of the application

process! Please reach out to us with any questions, thoughts or concerns you may have about the grant program. If you want to submit a paper application, we can mail you one with a stamped envelope to mail it back to us. Contact A'lice at A'lice.Frazier@durhamnc.gov or call or text (984) 260-6703 for any questions or support in English. Contact Cate at celander@dconc.gov or call or text (347) 738-0694 for any questions or support in Spanish.