



What is this program about?

The [Community Youth Innovators program](#) gives participants the tools they need to implement a community project, in partnership with a local organization doing the same type of work.

The program is open to groups (ages 18 to 29), who reside in Manitoba.

If you are part of a group that already has a community project in mind, and you are connected to a local organization that you can partner with to launch your project, then the CYI program can help you by providing the tools and the funding to get your project up and running.

Approved applications are eligible for \$2,500 to \$5,000 in support, depending on the scope of the project.

The deadline to apply for the program is January 31, 2022.

Do we require an organization mentor to apply?

Yes, all applicants must partner with a local organization to help them execute their projects. The organization should be doing similar work and must be a registered charity or non-profit organization.

Your group should reach out to the organization to identify a mentor who can provide support and guidance for the duration of the project. Examples of staff mentors include Executive Directors, Volunteer Managers/Coordinators, or Program Managers.



Note: If you are unable to find a mentor, please reach out to **Gloria Dovoh** at gloria.dovoh@volunteermanitoba.ca before the application deadline.

Can the community project be an existing organization-led project?

The project must be brand-new and/or an expansion of an already existing idea conceptualized by the group to address a community issue or need. The goal is for this project to be led by the group, in partnership with the organization. The organization is there for support and guidance, not to do the work on behalf of the group.



What is the time commitment for this program?

- Groups will be required to attend two days of training at the end of April/early May.
- Projects will be executed between May and August.
- Time commitment will vary since it is dependent on the project. Groups should prepare for 5-15 hours a month between May and August.

Do we need to be an established group, with a history of work in our chosen area?

Not at all! Groups of youth can come together for the proposed project or be an existing group that is already working on a project, and has a partnership with an organization.



Is this program specifically for people who live in Winnipeg?

The CYI program is open to anyone living in Manitoba, between the ages of 18 and 29, and who fits the following criteria:

- Must be a group (between 3 and 6 people).
- All members of the group must be between 18 - 29 years old at the time of application.
- Must be a Manitoba resident.
- Must identify a community issue to address.
- Must identify a community organization or group to work with on this project.
- Must be ready to commit to the entire duration of the project.
- Must commit to reporting on their progress to Volunteer Manitoba on a regular basis.

Will every group who applies for this program be accepted?

At this time, the Community Youth Innovators Program has the capacity to accept up to five groups. So don't delay your application! Get it in as soon as you can, or [contact us](#) if you have any questions.



Information for Organizations

If your organization is already connected to a group of youths (18 to 29), encourage them [to apply to this program](#)! You can also identify youth you currently work with, or serve, and suggest they come together to create a project. You can suggest project ideas to help inspire them, and you can help with the application process.

The project must be brand-new and/or an expansion of an already existing idea conceptualized by the group of youth to address a community issue or need. Your organization would need to commit to mentoring the group as they execute their projects.

Can an organization mentor multiple groups of youth?

If staff capacity allows your organization to assist multiple groups of youth then yes, organizations can take on multiple groups of youth. A staff mentor could manage more than one group, or more than one staff member can be a mentor.



Would the CYI group be considered volunteers at our organization?

Since this is a program of Volunteer Manitoba, the projects are considered CYI-led projects and the organizations are partners. You can consider them part of your volunteer program if you like, that is up to the organization.

Volunteer Manitoba will recognize these groups as Community Youth Innovators, and your organization as their partner.

What is the time commitment for being an organization mentor?

The mentor will need to be available during the project timeline, from April to August, 2022. The time commitment is approximately 5 to 10 hours a month, depending on the needs of the group. Mentors are there to provide advice and to distribute the funding from Volunteer Manitoba.

Who can I contact if I have any further questions?

Gloria Dovoh, Community Relations Coordinator

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