

2026 Youth Philanthropy Project Grant Round

Whatcom Community Foundation

Qualifying Question

Does your organization or project focus in Whatcom County and involve youth?*

Choices

Yes

No

Application

This year the Youth Philanthropy Project funding will focus on building environments where youth can thrive using the proven **Icelandic Prevention Model (IPM)** as a guide.

This model empowers communities to come together, center voice and the needs of young people, and implement strategies increasing protective factors (like strong family bonds, participation in out of school activities, positive peer networks, and supportive school environments) and reduce risk factors (lack of meaningful activities, low parental engagement, easy access to drugs/alcohol, family conflict or high stress at home, bullying, etc.). The goal is to strengthen supports and conditions that help promote healthy youth development. Rather than focusing solely on individual behavior, the model promotes **upstream, community-wide solutions**.

Grant Requirements

- Youth input in **design, planning, and/or implementation (even if adult-led in implementation)**
- Should demonstrate potential to **increase protective factors or reduce risk factors**
- Must include an **adult advisor** or mentor
- Projects to focus on at least **one of these areas:**
 1. Organized out of school leisure time activity with structured, supported/supervised, meaningful engagement opportunities
 2. Youth empowerment and leadership projects that build youth voice, civic engagement, or peer mentorship
 3. Family and Community engagement that strengthen family bonds and community connections
 4. Peer Connection and Social Belonging reducing isolation and promoting inclusivity

5. Healthy Habits & Lifestyle Education: activities that promote wellness, nutrition, and substance use prevention (school or community based)

Note: While not all activities must be implemented or led entirely by youth, all project ideas should reflect youth voices, priorities, and creativity. Adult advisors or partners may help with planning and execution.

The **Youth Philanthropy Committee** will review grants and make awards up to \$5,000 to nonprofits, schools, Native American Tribes and government agencies that directly support prevention goals and positive youth development.

[Click HERE for grant guidelines](#)

[Click HERE for tips on the online system](#)

[The deadline for this grant application is January 23, 2026 at 4pm | Grant awards will be announced by April 2026](#)

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Character Limit: 250

Do You Have a Fiscal Sponsor?

If you are not a recognized 501c3 organization, government agency, Native American Tribe or religious institution, then you will need to have a fiscal sponsor. If you have questions about this, please email Missy at mbelles@whatcomcf.org or call 360-671-6463.

Choices

Yes

No

If You Have a Fiscal Sponsor, Please List Their Name

Character Limit: 250

Demographic-Race*

Primary population involved in your project

Choices

All races

Indigenous peoples

Multiracial people

People of Black or African Descent

People of Asian descent

People of Latin American descent

People of Middle Eastern descent

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Other

Demographic - Age*

Choices

- All ages
- Seniors
- Early Childhood
- Children and youth
- Adults (not seniors)
- Seniors & children and youth

Whatcom County Region Served*

Choices

- WAW-Whatcom County (general)

WAWB-Bellingham

WAWB-Alabama Hill

WAWB-Alderwood

WAWB-Birchwood

WAWB-Columbia

WAWB-Edgemoor

WAWB-Fairhaven

WAWB-Guide Meridian

WAWB-Happy Valley

WAW-Birch Bay

WAW-Blaine

WAWB-Letterd Street

WAWB-Meridian

WAWB-Mt. Baker

WAWB-Puget

WAWB-Roosevelt

WAWB-Samish

WAWB-Sehome

WAWB-Silver Beach

WAWB-South

WAWB-South Hill

WAWB-Sunnyland

WAWB-Whatcom Falls

WAWB-WWU

WAWB-York

WAW-Custer

WAW-East County

WAW-Everson/Nooksack/Sumas

WAW-Ferndale

WAW-Lummi Island

WAW-Lummi Tribe

WAW-Lynden

WAW-Nooksack Tribe

WAW-Point Roberts

WAW-South Fork

Select the primary focus of your project*You may choose more than one.***Choices**

- Organized out of school leisure time activity with structured engagement opportunities
- Youth empowerment & leadership projects that build youth voice, civic engagement, or peer mentorship
- Family & Community engagement that strengthen family bonds & community connections
- Peer Connection & Social Belonging reducing isolation & promoting inclusivity
- Healthy Habits & Lifestyle education to promote wellness, nutrition, & substance use prevention

Grant Type***Choices**

- A&C-Arts & Culture
- BC-Building Community
- BC-Civic Engagement & Advocacy
- BC-Community & Neighborhood Improvement
- BC-Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- BC-Economic Development
- BC-Impact Investing
- BC-Nonprofit Capacity Building
- ED-Education
- ED-Libraries
- ED-Scholarships
- EN-Animal Related
- EN-Environment
- EN-Natural Resources Conservation Protection
- EN-Wildlife Preservation Protection Services
- HS-Criminal & Legal
- HS-Food, Agriculture & Nutrition
- HS-Housing & Shelter
- HS-Human Services
- HS-Public Safety, Disaster Planning & Relief
- HS-Transportation
- HS-Veterans (do not use after 12/31/2016)
- HS-Veterans
- H&W-Healthcare
- H&W-Health & Wellness
- H&W-Medical Research
- H&W-Mental Health & Crisis Intervention
- H&W-Rec & Sports
- O-Other
- R-Religious
- HS-Domestic Violence
- HS-Sexual Assault
- H&W-People with Disabilities

U-Unrestricted

Project Summary***Briefly** describe focus of the project and its connection to healthy youth development.*Character Limit: 500***Amount of Request***

Up to \$5,000

*Character Limit: 20***Do you have a youth and child safety policy?***

This will set guidelines to ensure safety of all participants. The Bellingham Public Library has a youth safety policy that they share online if you would like to view it as a sample.

Choices

Yes

No

Number of Paid Staff in Full-Time Equivalents**Character Limit: 250***Number of People Impacted by Project****Character Limit: 250***Commitment to Neighborliness and Opportunity***

Whatcom Community Foundation believes all means all: no person should be excluded from agency service, employment or volunteer participation and will not fund organizations that limit employment, program participation and other opportunities based on age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief, or for any or biased reasons. Does your organization follow these same practices?

Choices

Yes

No

Commitment to Neighborliness and Opportunity

If you answered "no" to the above, please explain below.

*Character Limit: 250***Grant Timing***

Can this grant be completed by March 31, 2027?

Choices

Yes

No

If no on above, please share your timing*Character Limit: 250***Consent to Share Your Application with Other Funders and Donors***

Please let us know if we can share your application with other funders and donors so that we can try to bring in more resources to fund local efforts. Thank you.

Choices

Yes

No

Qualifications*

Who is organizing this project? Please describe your organization's experience working with youth.

Include relevant experience in:

- Facilitating youth voice or leadership in program design
- Supporting structured leisure activities or afterschool programs
- Partnering with families or caregivers to strengthen youth outcomes
- Collaborating with schools, community groups, or public agencies
- Using data or community feedback to inform youth prevention strategies

If applicable, share examples of past projects that promoted youth well-being, reduced risky behaviors (e.g., substance use), or enhanced community connectedness.

*Character Limit: 3000***Project Description***

Please describe your project in detail and include:

- How youth helped, inspired, or generated the idea(s) or are involved in program design
- Which program type(s) it addresses (e.g., leisure time activities, youth empowerment and leadership, family and community engagement, peer connection and social belonging, healthy habits and lifestyle education)
- How the project builds protective factors or reduces risk factors
- Adult supports or community partnerships included in your plan

*Character Limit: 6000***Navigating Barriers***

How does your organization ensure that folks from different backgrounds, especially those who face barriers to participation, are meaningfully included?

Character Limit: 1000

Project Expenses*

If this grant does not cover all of your project expenses, please explain how you will complete the project. How will the remaining funds be secured? Please describe other sources of funding or in-kind support.

Character Limit: 2500

Additional Information

Please provide any additional details you would like to share.

Character Limit: 500

Budget Expenses

The following questions ask for projected expense descriptions and amounts. If you have more line items, you can upload a project budget as an attachment.

Expense 1 Description

Character Limit: 100

Expense 1 Amount

Character Limit: 20

Expense 2 Description

Character Limit: 100

Expense 2 Amount

Character Limit: 20

Expense 3 Description

Character Limit: 100

Expense 3 Amount

Character Limit: 20

Expense 4 Description

Character Limit: 100

Expense 4 Amount

Character Limit: 20

Expense 5 Description

Character Limit: 100

Expense 5 Amount

Character Limit: 20

Total Expenses**Character Limit: 20**Uploads***Current Board Member List**

If you are an agency, school or religious institution, then you do not need to upload this.

*File Size Limit: 6 MB***Project Budget**

If you had more than 5 expense line items, then please upload your project budget.

Please include how the Whatcom Community Foundation funds will be spent.

*File Size Limit: 6 MB***Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement**

If you have a Fiscal Sponsor (F.S.), please upload your F.S. agreement (must be signed by an officer or ED of the F.S.)

*File Size Limit: 6 MB***Youth and Child Safety Policy***File Size Limit: 6 MB***Additional Optional Uploads**

- Youth design documentation (e.g., surveys, youth meeting notes)
- Letters of support

*File Size Limit: 6 MB**Regrets on Qualification*

We regret to inform you that you are not eligible to apply for this funding because you do not provide services to youth and young adults (ages 24 and under) in Whatcom County.