

Youth Action Fund

# Youth Action & Wellbeing Grant guidelines

The 2024 Youth Action & Wellbeing Grants have up to \$100,000 of funding available, open to groups led by young people (under 30) across the country working to create change.

## What are the Youth Action & Wellbeing Grants?

At FYA, we back young people to make the change they want to see in the world. These grants aim to support under-resourced youth-led groups and grassroots campaigns with lived experience of injustice with the resources they need to make a positive difference, while helping them take care of themselves and their communities.

- **Youth Action grants:** You can apply for a grant of **\$5,000-\$15,000** to fund actions to create structural change. We'll fund grants up to \$75,000 in total.
- **Wellbeing grants:** You can apply for a grant of **\$2,000-\$5,000** to support the wellbeing of youth-led groups to keep up the fight sustainably. We'll fund grants up to \$25,000 in total.

We'll back up the grants with wraparound support from FYA's Youth Action Team. Youth-led groups who receive grants will be offered coaching and training in a number of valuable skills including media, digital and social media, strategy development, team culture and wellbeing, community organising, and intersectionality. We'll also work with grantees to embed and increase monitoring and evaluation skills to build the evidence base of their work, which will assist with securing ongoing sustainable funding for long term change.

## What we fund

Our Youth Action Fund backs young people to channel and grow their collective power to beat injustice and transform the future.

We are open to funding a wide array of activities, limited only by your imagination and the following criteria:

- The application must be on behalf of a group, organisation or community, not an individual, and based in Australia.
- Groups or campaigns must be led by young people under the age of 30 with lived experience of the issues they are campaigning on.
- The group or campaign must have a tangible goal or goals, which must be focused on structural change (eg. we will not fund awareness raising or training/education, unless as part of a campaign for structural change).
- Campaign goals must be aligned with [FYA's values](#).
- Funds must be spent by the end of October 2025, and can't be used for activities that are unlawful, or promote or oppose a political party or candidate as part of an election.
- Each group can apply for only one Youth Action and one Wellbeing grant each.

See table below for some examples of the kinds of activities we will fund.

Grant area	Examples
<p><b>Youth Action</b></p> <p>Grants are for youth-led groups seeking funds to advance tangible campaign goals or develop campaigns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events such as in person and online rallies, media stunts and planning retreats.</li> <li>• Production of communications materials.</li> <li>• Staff salaries and volunteer honorariums/stipends.</li> <li>• Research and evidence building.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wellbeing</b></p> <p>Grants are for youth-led groups seeking funds to develop wellbeing initiatives that aim to build resilience, strengthen connections and address burnout as they campaign for change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to mental or physical health support (acupuncture, massage, counselling, etc.)</li> <li>• Mutual aid initiatives (e.g. meal plans)</li> <li>• Healing or listening circle to address conflict or disagreements.</li> <li>• Community event or celebration.</li> </ul>

## What is a focus on structural change?

Structural change is a tangible shift in how a system operates that helps to address the root cause of a problem. There are lots of legitimate ways to create change and support our communities, and working towards structural change is one of them.

One way to check if your campaign or group is aiming for structural change is by looking at your goals and/or vision. What is your approach to the issue you are working on? Are you looking to address a problem by addressing its causes, or at least some of its causes (why it exists) or only its symptoms?

For example, two groups in a local community want to address people being unable to afford food (the problem).

- Group A decides to address the problem by fundraising in order to distribute food to those that can't afford it. Their vision is to continue to raise money and distribute food.
- Group B starts by trying to understand why some people in their community are poor and seeing if there can be a more permanent solution to food insecurity. While they may fundraise to feed people that are hungry right now, their vision is to build enough power to convince the government to raise the rate of Centrelink payments above the poverty line, and establish government-owned supermarkets that won't price-gouge.

Group A is doing important work meeting people's basic needs to survive this injustice. Depending on how it is organised this could be considered mutual aid or service provision, but it **does not** focus on structural change - it focuses on addressing the consequences of the problem. Whereas Group B's approach of addressing some root causes and developing a vision and goals around that **does** include a focus on structural change.

Often, winning structural change requires the building and wielding of power (organising and mobilising people to take action).

Structural change is not, in and of itself, a shift in public awareness or attitude, or service provision, although these things could be stepping stones towards structural change.

If you need some help thinking this through, book in a time to chat with our team about your idea.

## Grants timeline

Expressions of interest open	3 September - 2 October
Online info session	9 September

Shortlist announced	24 October
Shortlisted round 2 applications due	18 November
Recipients notified	29 November
Funds released	December or January

## Our priorities

Grant recipients will be selected by a Youth Grants Panel of 8 young people.

### We will prioritise funding for:

- **Grassroots** campaigns, projects, organisations and movements. By grassroots, we mean campaigns, projects and movements that are based in community and not attached to a large organisation.
- **Current funding:** Campaigns/organisations who don't currently have much funding or funding opportunities;
- **Lived experience:** Organisations, communities or campaigns that are led by people who have lived experience being disabled or LGBTQIA+, of poverty, of racism, of gender discrimination, being in the justice system, state care, mental health system, impacts of climate change and/or housing instability.

### The panel will also take into consideration:

- *Intersectionality:* We will also aim to fund a diverse mix (age, ability, gender, cultural background) of people and campaigns/movements/projects recognising that there are multiple layers of discrimination and injustice.
- *Location:* We will aim to fund a diverse mix of young people and campaigns/movements/projects from regional and remote areas, alongside a mix of state and territories.

## Application process

**Step 1:** Fill out the [Expression of Interest](#) form, by writing, voice recording or video. If you need help, reach out to book a chat with our team.

Feel free to attach any supporting materials (such as media articles, letters of recommendation, campaign strategy documents) as part of your application. You can apply for up to one grant in each of the two categories - Youth Action and Wellbeing.

**Expressions of interest are due by 2 October**

**Step 2:** You'll be notified if you have made it onto the shortlist around 24 October 2024. If you're on the shortlist, you'll be invited to complete a more detailed application (including a breakdown of budget and the theory of change) and/or interview. A member of our Youth Action team will get in touch to provide support and we'll provide you with templates to make adding detail to your application as easy as possible.

If you didn't make the shortlist, you'll be contacted by a member of the Youth Action team who can provide feedback.

**Step 3:** The panel will consider your application. You'll be notified of the outcome of your application by 29 November 2024. If you are unsuccessful, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with someone from the Youth Action team to get more feedback.

**Step 4:** If you are successful, the funds will be released to you December 2024 or January 2025.

**Step 5:** There'll be a reporting process, but we'll keep it simple. We'll tailor this to your needs.

If you have any questions please contact [pablo.brait@fya.org.au](mailto:pablo.brait@fya.org.au).

## Who will decide on the grants?

The grant shortlist and subsequent recipients will be decided by the Youth Grants Panel. The panel consists of 8 people aged 16-29 who have been appointed by FYA and are volunteering their time. Panel members are required to declare any conflicts of interest and will be unable to make decisions on grants for any organisation, group or community they have a direct association with.

## Support with actions + activities

- Once the funds are distributed, the Youth Action team will work with you to set up a program of support based on your plans and activities.
- Support will consist of regular catch ups with a coach, and a program of workshops and training sessions that will be open to all grant recipients.

## End of grant report

- When you've run your action or activity, we'll send you an evaluation survey and grant acquittal form with questions for you to share how you used the grant, and 4-5 photos or graphics about your event or activity for FYA to share on our website, social media and with funders. You can fill out this form in writing or in the form of a chat with an FYA staff member.
- We're aiming to reduce the burden of reporting on young people and will

adapt this to your needs, and support you to think about what you want to measure to understand your impact going forward.