



2023-2024 Youth in Action Grants

Have a great idea for a project that would help other youth? Need \$1,000 to make it happen? Apply for a Youth in Action Grant today!

United Way Perth-Huron wants to fund the great ideas of young leaders (like you!) who are working to make positive change in our community.

What kind of youth projects are we looking for?

- ✓ Projects created and driven by youth.
- ✓ Projects that feature youth working together.
- ✓ Projects that address important youth issues.
- ✓ Projects that improve the lives of youth and/or the community.
- ✓ Projects that share a youth perspective on local issues.
- ✓ New, imaginative ideas we haven't seen before.
- ✓ Projects with a clear goal.

Projects must be:

- ✓ Created and driven by youth from Perth and/or Huron Counties.
- ✓ Taking place in Perth and/or Huron Counties.
- ✓ Open, unbiased, and accessible for youth.
- ✓ Legal and safe.

Examples of Successful Projects from Past Years:

- ✓ Events, workshops, guest speakers, multi-media presentations, musical acts, skill development, collective brainstorming, discussions of tough topics.
- ✓ Wellness Wednesdays – series of weekly workshops promoting different wellness skills.
- ✓ The Art Cart – art supplies made available for all students.
- ✓ Career Workshop – class talk helping students think through their options after graduation.
- ✓ Schoolyard Naturalization – creation of outdoor learning space and self-sustaining semi-wild area.
- ✓ Mentoring program pairing older and younger students.
- ✓ Youth Cooking in Action program providing meals to classmates and cooking classes to younger students.

Some Example Project Ideas:

- Conflict resolution workshops leading to the creation of a youth conflict resolution team to help classmates resolve issues.
- Mindfulness, mental health, and emotional regulation training.
- Financial literacy training.
- Mental health resources lending library.
- A student magazine covering important youth issues.



TIP - Put on a timer and come up with as many ideas as you can in 15 minutes. Get past the obvious ideas and get imaginative! Then pick your favourites and build them out.



TIP - Write down a list of the top things you and your friends don't like or want to change. For each one, try to think of a project that could help the issue.

What do I need to apply?

- ✓ To be Lead Youth Applicant (age 14-24). If you're working in a group, choose one member to be Lead and make this clear.
- ✓ An Adult Trustee (age 25+) who will support the project, help you handle the money, and help you complete the final report. (Note: cheques will be made out to the Adult Trustee or their organization — for instance, a school, library, or community group.)
- ✓ A completed application form, including a detailed budget.

What can we use the money for?

- ✓ Direct programming (resources, guest speakers, thank you gifts, non-cash prizes).
- ✓ Project materials (printing, photocopying, food, promotional).
- ✓ Equipment (short term rental) and facility rentals.

What can't we use the money for?

- X Projects created and/or driven by adults (age 25+).
- X Projects that are primarily recreational.
- X Projects with no immediate impact.
- X Projects that benefit only a few individuals.
- X Normal operations expenses of existing organizations (i.e. buying equipment/capital, salaries, benefits, administrative costs, office space rentals, training, web development, marketing, etc.)
- X Cash prizes.
- X Fundraising.
- X Individual or team travel.

When can I apply?

Anytime from September 11, 2023, to October 13, 2023.

How do I apply?

- ✓ Complete the application form available on our website: perthhuron.unitedway.ca
- ✓ Email the completed application form to wwellington@perthhuron.unitedway.ca by October 13, 2023.

What happens after I apply?

In October — Our staff will review your application and call you with any questions. Our funding committee will review your application and make a decision. Our staff will call to let you know if you will be getting a grant. You can expect a decision on your application in the last week of October.

From November to May — Complete your project. Keep our staff informed of major achievements, photo opportunities, or any changes you need to make to your plan.

In June — Return any unused funding. Complete and submit your final report.

If I get funding, what will I have to do?

1. Sign a contract letter, as well as have your Adult Trustee sign the contract letter. Once we get your signed letter, we will send you a cheque for 90% of the grant. The cheque will be made out to your Adult Trustee or their organization.

2. Have a great time planning and running your project! Keep us posted on your progress so that we can help you spread the word. If you can, document the process and outcome of your project with photos and videos so we can celebrate your success and inspire future applicants.
3. Spend the funding by May 31, 2024.
4. Return any unused funding by June 14, 2024.
5. Let us know how the project went by finishing a final report (due June 14, 2024). Once we have reviewed and approved your report, we will send the cheque for the last 10% of the grant.

Information for Teachers

In past years, some teachers in the area have used the Youth in Action Grants as a project for their class, and we think that's a great idea. If you would like to do so too, we are happy to coordinate with you. Please contact Will Wellington at wwellington@perthhuron.unitedway.ca or 519-271-7730 x 230.

Ideas — We recommend dividing the class into small groups of 3-5 and having each group apply. If some but not all ideas receive grants, consider having groups join together to make the projects happen.

Timeline — We have tried to adjust our grant timeline to enable students to complete their project within the scope of a single-semester class. Applications open Monday, September 11 and close Friday, October 13. Youth will receive notice on the status of the application in the last week of October. We recommend students and teachers work together to be ready to implement successful projects as soon as they receive approval so as to complete their project by the end of the semester.

Completing Grant Requirements — Remember to plan to take care of all the requirements of the funding contract within the semester, including spending all the funding, returning unused funding, and completing the final report. If you and your students are not able to complete these requirements in the semester, you will still be required to complete them by the dates spelled out in the funding contract.

United Way in the Classroom — We are happy to work with you to provide a more engaging experience for your students with an in-person or virtual classroom visit. For instance, in the first week of October, we could give your students feedback on their grant applications before they submit them.

Grant Decisions — We want to coordinate with you to provide our funding decisions to students via video call or phone. Please reach out to us to discuss details once applications have been submitted.

Funding Not Guaranteed — We try to distribute our funding fairly across our area. However, we cannot guarantee the approval of any applications in advance. It's possible that multiple applications from one class will be approved, and also possible that a class may submit multiple applications and have none of them approved.