

Grant Guidelines

YACWA Small Grants Program Supported by Lotterywest

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About the Program

The YACWA Small Grants Program aims to promote innovative engagement opportunities of young people that strengthen their resilience, capability and mental wellbeing. The program will provide financial support to organisations to build programs that meet the needs of young people in their community. YACWA recognises the value of ongoing trusted relationships between young people and their communities and aims to consolidate these relationships by providing funds to increase resources and enable larger impact.

Program Objectives

The grants will need to address one or both of the following two (2) areas:

- Early intervention and prevention to improve young people's mental health and/or building communities and connections for young people
- Engage young people who are at risk of entering the youth justice system

Working within this framework, the objectives of this grant program will be to build the resilience of place-based youth organisations/community groups.

YACWA recognises that supports who stay alongside young people for a long time build ongoing trusted relationships. The YACWA Small Grants Program aims to consolidate

these relationships by providing funds to optimise and add value to existing resources, leading to larger impact.

Specifically, the program seeks to create and/or build on current activity to address the wellbeing of young people by providing informed place-based solutions.

Eligibility

1. Not-For-Profit Organisations;
2. Local Government Associations;
3. Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations; and
4. Community Groups with auspiced agreements from an incorporated association.

Grant applications must:

- Propose activities that have benefit to young (12-25 years old) Western Australians;
- Provide evidence that projects are seeking funding to strengthen existing activities, with a clear value add;
- Align with Lotterywest's [Good Practice Requirements](#), where relevant;
- Demonstrate a commitment to the [National Principles of Child Safe Organisations](#);
- Accept responsibility to complete YACWA's Milestone Check-In four (4) months from project start date (where projects last more than four months); and
- Accept responsibility to acquit the grant within four (4) weeks of project completion, and within nine (9) months of funds being allocated, which involves:
 - Completion and submission of YACWA's Grant Acquittal Form;
 - Submission of Project's Financial Report; and
 - Return of any unspent funds to YACWA.

Successful applicants will be required to provide YACWA with a Risk Management & Safeguarding Plan which aligns with the [National Principles of Child Safe Organisations](#) before funds are released. Training will be available during the application period; please contact YACWA's Grants Officer (contact below) or use [this link](#) to express your interest.

Available Funding

Grant range: \$1,000 - \$10,000

Pool: \$340,000

YACWA anticipates 40-50 grants will be awarded.

Key Dates

Grant Applications Open: 8am 13 October 2025

Grant Applications Close: 5pm 12 December 2025

Applicants Notified of Outcome: 6 February 2026

Project Period Begins: 2 March 2026

Milestone Check-In Earliest Deadline: 26 July 2026

Project Period Closes: 1 November 2026

Grant Acquittal Due: 1 December 2026

What this Grant *Will* Support

Funding from this application **can** go towards any of the following expenses:

- Transport (including airfares and ground transport); excluding international travel
- Equipment and venue hire
- Consumables (where imperative for the activity to take place, including catering); excluding alcohol
- Infrastructure
- Wages directly related to the project / program staffing (must be for the project time only)
- Marketing costs
- Consultations and facilitators
- Grant administration costs (up to 5%)

What this Grant *Will Not* Support

Funding from this application **cannot** go towards any of the following expenses:

- Projects or services which receive other funding, where the objectives are identical to those posed in this application
- Activities with no benefit to young West Australians
- Retrospective costs
- The project cannot be a fundraising activity or have the awarding of prizes as its focus
- Operational staffing (ongoing core administrative wages to maintain the organisation)

Assessment Criteria

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The project aligns with one or both areas listed under **Program Objectives**

- The project will optimise and add value to the applicant's existing resources
- The project offers value for money
- There is evidence of sound planning and ability to manage the project, including clearly defined project objectives, evaluation measures, and outcomes
- There is evidence of adherence to the [National Principles of Child Safe Organisations](#)
- The applicant has conducted culturally sensitive and respectful research and consultation(s) to demonstrate that there is a community need
- The project is sustainable in terms of its continued benefit to young people

Assessment Prioritisation

After meeting the above listed requirements, the Grant Assessment Panel will also prioritise applications that:

- Will be delivered regionally, rurally and/or remotely, or in identified high-risk areas. Preference will be given to applications from the Kimberley, Pilbara, and Great Southern regions
- Support organisations with no core funding
- Support Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- Support additional underrepresented groups including, but not limited to:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
 - Young People at risk of engagement with the Justice System and/or in contact with the Justice System
 - LGBTIQ+ young people
 - Young people with disabilities
 - Young people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities
 - Young neurodiverse people

Assessment Process

Assessment of successful grants will be conducted by a panel of young people from diverse backgrounds and experiences and sector professionals. The panel will be selected by YACWA, but will not include YACWA staff.

Applications will be distributed to sub-panels and shortlisted before final decisions are made at a full panel meeting.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email by 6 February 2026.

Grant Acknowledgement

Successful applicants will be asked to acknowledge YACWA and Lotterywest in three (3) ways:

1. Include YACWA and Lotterywest's logos on all grant activity marketing materials,
2. If hosting an event, verbally acknowledge YACWA and Lotterywest,
3. Provide YACWA and Lotterywest with images to be used for our own marketing purposes, ensuring consent is obtained from all photo participants.

Optionally, successful applicants can order Lotterywest merchandise free-of-charge, including Lotterywest pull-up banners, tote bags, pens, and notepads.

How to Apply

Applications open 8am on 13 October 2025 and close at 5pm on 12 December 2025 through this link: <https://yacwa.smartygrants.com.au/small-grants-program>

Accessibility and Support

YACWA is committed to making this process accessible and supportive. If you need further information or assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Jake de Visser

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Work days: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday