



RACIALIZED YOUTH INNOVATION (RAYI) MICRO GRANTS

APPLICATION GUIDE

2023-2024

FUNDED IN PART BY

CANADA SERVICE CORPS
SERVICE JEUNESSE CANADA | **Canada** 



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INTRODUCTION

Youth in the under-served racialized communities in Toronto and its environs do not lack innovative ideas to serve and give back to their communities. Neither do they lack the desire to carry out such ideas into fruition. However, the key impediments that they face include the lack of professional support and small grants to bring their ideas to fruition.

To remove the said impediments, The Canadian Center for Community Advancement (3CA) is undertaking the RAYI micro grants project which is funded in part [by the Government of Canada under Canada Service Corps](#). This project will offer 15 micro grants with per micro grant value of between \$2,000 to \$5,000. It is intended to fund youth-owned and youth-led projects and proposals.

OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives of the RAYI project are threefold and include the following:

1. Provide youth participants access to professionals who will train and mentor them in incubating their innovative ideas under one of three streams:
 - a. Preserving the environment.
 - b. Promoting civic and democratic engagement.
 - c. Strengthening youth resilience.
2. Provide 15 micro-grants with per micro grant value of between \$2,000 to \$5,000 that would help fund the selected youth-owned and youth-led projects and proposals. These projects are to be implemented at the local level to address one of the three focus areas and themes for the RAYI project.
3. Capture and document, from the youth participant's perspective, the lessons learned in the carrying out of the innovative ideas from a figment in the youth brain to the documentation on paper and all the way to the final product and/or project that is to be implemented in the service of their communities.

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ACCEPTABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS

All youth led project proposals with non-for-profit purposes will be considered for funding. For a project to be considered for funding, all planned activities must fall under at least one of the three RAYI project streams.

The RAYI project has the following three streams and or focus areas:

1. **Preserving the environment:** Project proposals falling under this stream or focus area would entail activities that would help the youth contribute to the preservation of our environment. An example project could be the establishment of a Community Garden during the summer months where fruits and vegetables are organically grown and the harvest is used to feed the homeless, for example.
2. **Promoting civic and democratic engagement:** Project proposals falling under this stream or focus area would entail activities that would help youth to actively participate in the civic and democratic process. An example project could be a non-partisan election awareness campaign where the youth are connected to politicians at all three levels of government and or they device ways to make youth centric issues front and center in any upcoming elections.
3. **Strengthening youth resilience:** Project proposals falling under this stream or focus area would entail activities that would strengthen the resilience of the youth who are coming out of three years of Covid-19 induced lockdowns and shutdowns. An example project in this area could be the use of weekly soccer sessions as a way to make the youth become more physically active while socializing with peers during the hot spring and summer months or the cold and gloomy fall and winter months.

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PROJECT ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

Any youth led group whether formally registered as a youth organization or a group coming together solely to implement their innovative idea can apply for funding from the RAYI project. Preference and or priority will be given to youth-led project proposals from youth from racialized background and or from visible minorities.

For a project proposal to be considered for funding, such a project must:

- ✓ be a youth led group (registered as a non-for-profit or not registered (informal))
- ✓ serve at minimum ten would be youth beneficiaries.
- ✓ be led by a youth from racialized and or visible minorities.
- ✓ have all its activities take place in Toronto and its environs.
- ✓ Align, at the very least, with one of the three RAYI project streams.

PROJECT APPLICATION TIMELINES

The RAYI grants application will be available starting May 1st and will continue on a rolling basis until December 15th,2023 or until all the funds are allocated whichever comes first.

- ✓ Application period: **May 1st, 2023 to December 15th, 2023.**
- ✓ Application for funding are reviewed and approved on a rolling basis.
- ✓ All applications received in a month, for example, in May, are reviewed and approved on the second week of the following month.
- ✓ All projects which are approved for funding must be completed by March 15th 2024.
- ✓ For the duration of the program only **One application per youth group** will be allowed for submission and or considered for funding.

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PROJECT EXPENSES

The grants will support activities and expenses that are directly associated with the development, implementation and the evaluation of the proposed project.

Eligible expenses can include but are not limited to the following:

- Venue rental
- Honorarium
- Refreshments
- Professional Speaking fees
- Youth participants training costs
- Promotion and communication of project
- Entertainment at a youth event
- Transportation e.g. TTC tokens

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, :

- Alcohol
- Cannabis
- Vehicle rental (if not directly related to project implementation)
- Partisan political activities/expenses
- Expenses incurred before formal approval is received.
- Capital expenses (purchase of equipment or furniture not related to the project)

Note: that reallocating any budget line item above 20% of the approved amount requires obtaining written approval from the RAYI Project Coordinator.

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RAYI PROJECT CONTACTS

In order to get answers to any questions you might have about the RAYI project and get guidance on how to apply, you can review documentation on the project page : <http://www.threeca.org/project/RAYI>

Bi-monthly webinars are held to answer any questions one might have about the project and or the application process. To register yourself and or your group for any of the webinar dates available or convenient, you can do so by clicking on this [link](#).

You can also reach out to the Project Coordinator by calling 416 614 1255 ext 203 or email: rayi@threeca.org.

You can also come to the office for in person help either with your application proposal and or the application itself.

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