

CANConnect Diversity Microgrant 2024: Incubator for Youth-Led Civic Engagement Initiatives

Project Guidelines and FAQs

Program Overview

CANConnect Diversity Microgrant is a seed funding opportunity for young Canadians aged 15-30 to lead and create innovative civic engagement projects. This initiative is designed to empower youth to serve as leaders and entrepreneurs in their communities by developing and launching creative, impactful projects that foster civic engagement and address social issues.

Eligibility

- **Project Lead:** Must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or of refugee status aged 15-30.
- **Team Members:** Can include eligible peers or non-eligible members to enhance the project's quality, impact, and inclusivity across regions, generations, and sectors.

Encouraged Projects

We encourage entrepreneurship in delivering projects that are comprehensive, interdisciplinary and multifaceted, involving various elements such as:

1. **Research and Data Analysis/Visualization:** Conduct thorough research to understand the issue, and generate a set of research work for civic knowledge mobilization. Visualize data to raise public awareness.
2. **Community/Stakeholders Outreach:** Engage with community members, stakeholders, and the public to raise awareness and gather support.
3. **Social Media:** Utilize social media platforms to mobilize civic knowledge, engage with the audience, and promote your project.
4. **Digitization Efforts:** Develop digital tools (such as website, e-toolkit, gamification, etc.) or content to enhance civic participation and information accessibility.
5. **Compliance/Legal Aspects:** Investigate and address any legal or regulatory requirements related to the project.

Make sure that you work on financial management and sustainability: Develop a budget, manage funds effectively, and plan for the project's long-term sustainability.

Project Guidelines

1. **Proposal Requirements:**

- Project Description: Outline the project's objectives, methodology, and anticipated outcomes.
 - Target Audience: Identify the community or group that will benefit from the project.
 - Impact: Explain how the project will foster civic engagement and address a social issue.
 - Sustainability: Describe plans for maintaining the project's impact beyond the funding period.
- 2. Application Process:**
- Submit a detailed project proposal online.
 - Include a budget plan and timeline.
 - Demonstrate how the project aligns with the program's goals.
- 3. Evaluation Criteria:**
- Innovation and creativity.
 - Feasibility and sustainability.
 - Potential impact on the community.
 - Engagement and inclusivity.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Step	Description	Timeline
Step 1	Fill out the Interest Form & Join our Information Session (Optional)	Click the link to check out the details
Step 2	Build your project proposal, recruit your team members, and create a project budget.	
Step 3	Submit your project application	Deadline: Wed., 31 July 2024
Step 4	Receive regular follow-ups, mentorships, and resources from GLOCAL mentors.	Upon requests
Step 5	Submit your completed project	Deadline: Fri., 15 November 2024
Step 6	Evaluation of projects by a panel of judges	15 November - 15 January 2024
Step 7	Judging results announcement	16 January 2024
Step 8	Award Ceremony: <i>GLOCAL on the Parliament Hill</i>	Early or mid-February 2025
Step 9	Promotion of the successful grant recipients through government and GLOCAL social media channels	January-April 2024

Application Materials

1. Participants need to submit a project proposal outlining their intended research, a short video, a digital project, or other innovative civic engagement tools/content.
2. The project proposal should clearly demonstrate how the project aims to address at least one of the three goals:
 - a. to help the general public gain a better understanding of Canada;
 - b. to facilitate a better public awareness of Canadian civic issues and knowledge; and/or
 - c. to enhance Canadians' democratic literacy and participation.
3. The project proposal should include a description of the objectives, methodology, anticipated outcomes, target audience, and potential social impact.
4. Participants are encouraged to be creative in their project ideas.
5. The project proposals should also satisfy the project requirements under the ESDC guidelines. For more information, please see: [Funding: Micro-grants stream for organizations– Canada Service Corps](#).

Prohibited Activities

Participants are required to refrain from engaging in any ineligible activities as outlined below:

- Any activities in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or the human rights legislation in each province or territory.
- Operating projects for the purpose of supporting or advertising a political candidate, figure, or party.
- Operating their projects outside of Canada.
- Receiving supporting sponsorship or funds from fundraising events or other forms of financial assistance, other than the CANConnect Microgrant funds.
- Using the CANConnect Microgrant funds for purposes other than the project.
- No profit can be generated as a result of a CANConnect project.

Non-partisanship Rule

GLOCAL upholds a strict nonpartisanship rule throughout all stages of the grant award process. We ensure that political affiliations and biases have no influence on the evaluation and selection of grant applications. Our judges are committed to assessing each proposal solely on its merit, innovation, and alignment with the specified criteria.

This nonpartisanship rule reinforces our dedication to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all Participants, regardless of political beliefs or affiliations. By adhering to this principle, we guarantee a fair and unbiased evaluation process that promotes the spirit of open competition and equal opportunity for all.

FAQs

1. What is the purpose of the CANConnect Social Entrepreneurs Incubator?
 - The program aims to empower young Canadians to lead and implement innovative civic engagement projects that address social issues and foster community involvement.
2. Who can apply for the microgrant?
 - The project lead must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or of refugee status aged 15-30. Team members can include peers or other individuals to support the project's success.
3. What types of projects are eligible?
 - Eligible projects should be comprehensive, involving research, community outreach, social media work, digitization, and compliance/legal aspects. Projects should promote civic engagement and address social issues.
4. What should be included in the project proposal?
 - Your proposal should include a project description, target audience, anticipated impact, budget plan, timeline, and sustainability strategy. Check out a project template:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-mpaKGY-SpJ5E0OYQRV4RCgAdpY3NfRckDEXMHW88/edit?usp=sharing>
5. How will the projects be evaluated?
 - Projects will be evaluated based on innovation, feasibility, sustainability, potential impact, and inclusivity. More details to be released in June 2024.
6. What support will successful applicants receive?
 - Successful applicants will receive mentorship, funding, and resources to help implement and sustain their projects.
7. How can I ensure my project is sustainable?
 - Plan for long-term impact by developing strategies for ongoing community engagement, securing additional funding, and building partnerships.
8. Can my team include members who are not Canadian citizens or outside the age range?
 - Yes, team members can include peers or individuals who are not Canadian citizens or outside the age range, as long as the project lead meets the eligibility criteria.

For further information or assistance with your application, please visit [GLOCAL Foundation of Canada](#) or contact Joseph Ong at joseph.ong@glocalfoundation.ca.

About GLOCAL

GLOCAL Foundation of Canada is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting civic participation through local engagement and global understanding across Canada. With offices in Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Halifax, GLOCAL empowers young Canadians to actively contribute to the development of digital infrastructure for civic participation and civic knowledge mobilization in Canada.

Past Winning Projects

Hope Across The Border (Yu Xin Weng, British Columbia):

- A documentary, through the lens of an immigrant youth, exploring challenges faced by Afghan refugees in Canada.
- Highlighting the relationship between cultural heritage and hope for Afghan Canadians. Showcasing the resilience and courage of Afghan Canadians in the face of life challenges and cultural differences.

The Worst Day Ever? (Zoe Fraser, British Columbia):

- A short film exploring the taboo topic of Medical Assistance In Dying (MAiD) and sparking conversations around grief, loss, and death.
- Through personal experiences, Zoe explores the complexities of family dynamics in end-of-life decisions.

Documenting First Aid Traditions in Indigenous Communities and Low-Resource Communities across Nova Scotia: A Cultural Anthropology Perspective (Wafaa A. and Asia U., Nova Scotia)

- This anthropological initiative delves into the intricate tapestry of first aid practices within indigenous communities and low-resource settings.
- The project focuses on creating an oral history of first aid practices in Nova Scotia tailored specifically to the cultural and contextual nuances of these communities.

Notes of the North Podcast: A Celebration of Canadian Composers (Brianna Dai, Ontario):

- A podcast celebrating lesser-known Canadian composers, fostering civic and global engagement through music.
- Encouraging Canadians to engage with the music of their local communities.

Canadian in Bangla Town (Anil Wasif, Ontario):

- A photobook project delving into the lives of the Bangladeshi diaspora in Toronto, aiming to address underrepresentation and lack of awareness.
- Showcasing the rich cultural, social, and historical aspects of the vibrant Bangladeshi-Canadian community along Danforth Avenue.

Rise and Shine Series (Robel Adugna, Aaraf Ahmed, Zeba Farooq, Ontario):

- An interview series amplifying the voices of Ethiopian and Eritrean youth, fostering understanding, and celebrating cultural heritage.
- Building bridges of understanding and solidarity by challenging stereotypes and misconceptions through personal narratives.

Beaver Quiz-A-Mole (Richard Mou, Olivia Liu, Larisa Jia, British Columbia):

- A family-friendly iOS game combining Whack-A-Mole with educational trivia about Canadian government responsibilities to enhance civic knowledge.

- Engaging youths in a fun and interactive way to learn more about Canada and its government roles, fosters a connection to civic knowledge.

Youth Digital Talent Empowerment Program (Max Du - Alberta):

- Addressing unique challenges faced by immigrant and refugee youth, the program empowers them with digital skills and opportunities for impactful civic engagement.
- Bridging the digital divide, the initiative fosters inclusivity, civic engagement and knowledge mobilization.

Humans in Flight (John Jonaid - Ontario):

- Dedicated to reshaping perceptions of refugees in Canada, Humans in Flight amplifies refugee voices through visual storytelling.
- Challenging stereotypes, celebrating contributions, and fostering empathy, the project aligns with CANConnect's goals of inclusivity, breaking down barriers, and building a compassionate society.

Young and Black (Daniel Akinjise - Ontario):

- Addressing mental health challenges in young and black professionals, the project explores the impact of racial discrimination in the workplace.
- By shedding light on this issue, the project contributes to civic knowledge mobilization, fostering understanding and driving meaningful change.

Food Security in Waterloo Region: A Volunteer's Perspective (Shireen Ibraheem - Ontario):

- Explore the role of organizations in fostering food security based on volunteer experiences, focusing on challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and the impact of community engagement initiatives.
- Bridge the gap between theory and practice, offer practical recommendations, and enhance the effectiveness of efforts addressing food security.

The Role of Civic Engagement in Addressing the Civic Issues of South Sudanese Youth in Canada (Dina Nyjong - Alberta):

- Address civic concerns within the South Sudanese community in Canada, exploring questions related to distrust in law enforcement, the disconnect between youth and democratic processes, and the influence of civic engagement.
- Empowering youth and promoting civic awareness for a more informed and engaged community.

Unhoused Refugees in Ontario (Christopher Delgado-Castro - Ontario):

- Address housing challenges for Government Assisted Refugees and Refugee Claimants/Asylum Seekers.

- Raise awareness about unhoused refugees in Ontario through practical insights and accessible resources.

National Affordable Modular Apartment Condominiums Immigrant Proposal (Blair Maddock-Ferrie - New Brunswick, Ontario):

- Tackle Canada's affordable housing crisis through innovative state-funded modular apartments.
- Foster community development, and economic upliftment, and address housing shortages by creating sustainable, inclusive housing solutions.

Pelee Island Legion Senior Socials (Emily, Madeline Truman - Ontario):

- The project aims to revive weekly socials, fostering engagement and connection among seniors, and bridging the gap between seasonal and year-round residents.

Politics, Law, and the Challenge of Social Media Misinformation (Haley Magrill, British Columbia):

- Addressing social media misinformation challenges for Canadian policymaking by examining legal constraints in comparable democracies.
- Enhancing public understanding of the complexities of responding to social media misinformation while balancing free speech and preventing harm.

Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Canada (Julia Dhillon - British Columbia):

- Aiming to inform and deepen understanding of GBV prevention, the project addresses the various aspects of GBV within a Canadian context.
- Enhancing civic awareness, the project empowers readers to engage with and contribute to GBV prevention, aligning seamlessly with CANConnect and GLOCAL Foundation goals.

Canadian Mental Health Resources and Task Tracker App (Jodi Clare Pita - Ontario):

- Combating challenges faced by those with ADHD, the app project enhances task management skills and provides mental health resources.
- The app encourages inclusivity, addresses mental health challenges, and guides users to localized resources.

Reducing Renters' Carbon Footprint in the City of Vancouver (Karina Valcke-Beckett - BC, ON, QC):

- The research project tackles renters' carbon footprint in Vancouver, outlining challenges and proposing equitable policy solutions.
- Recognized at the Vancouver HUBBUB CityStudio Conference, the project aligns with CANConnect and GLOCAL Foundation goals, addressing environmental concerns with community engagement.

Plastic Pollution and the Marine Environment (Olivia Zhao - British Columbia):

- The research project raises awareness about plastic pollution in marine environments, aiming to empower communities for sustainable solutions.
- The project fosters civic engagement by actively involving residents in combating plastic marine pollution.

Navigating Waste: A Comprehensive Analysis of Waste Management Practices

(Mason Sun - Ontario):

- Part of a multi-phase project, the comprehensive study examines waste management practices in Canada, the United States, China, and Australia.
- With a focus on environmental sustainability, the project contributes to civic knowledge mobilization by exploring waste reduction trends and governance structures.

Financiable (Huiyi W. & Shuyou W., British Columbia):

- Financiable addresses the need for practical financial skills among youth, promoting financial literacy through online and offline activities.
- Focusing on civic engagement and knowledge mobilization, the project aims to empower individuals to control their financial expenditures.

Divergent Colors Non Profit (Blair Maddock-Ferrie - New Brunswick, Ontario):

- Support individuals with Autism and PTSD through coloring books and media, with a diverse team having personal connections to Autism or PTSD.
- Offer resources, stand as a beacon of hope, and emphasize shared experiences to foster a more inclusive and empathetic society.

Assessment: Settlement Journey of Afghan Newcomers in Calgary, AB, Canada

(Flora Muazam - Alberta):

- Examine settlement and integration challenges faced by Afghan newcomers in Calgary through comprehensive surveys, and data collection techniques.
- Provide insights for shaping policies and services, facilitating successful settlement and integration within the community.

EmpowerBlack Youth Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition (Taijah Cox-Armstrong - Ontario):

- Empower black youth entrepreneurs through a pitch competition, networking summit, and pop-up shop, encouraging the pursuit of business dreams and fostering connections.
- Recognize and support innovative ideas from black youth, promoting diversity and inclusion in the entrepreneurial landscape.

YouthSpeak Social Media Influencer Project (Cedric Tse - Ontario):

- Explore social media's impact on youth perceptions of homophobia, sexism, racism, and unhealthy life choices, complementing YouthSpeak's role in providing school assemblies on mental health and empowerment.
- Inform and empower students, implement strategies for awareness and resilience, and address growing concerns affecting the lives of today's youth.

Sustainable Business Showcase (UNSD Youth - British Columbia):

- Raise awareness of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Encourage education about sustainable businesses, inspire their creation, and support existing sustainable businesses.

Canada's Media Monitor (Keven Pi - British Columbia):

- Provide insights into how citizens' votes are influenced by political party candidates, considering factors like age, gender, and ethnicity.

The Impact of Nuclear Waste on Humans (Wen Xingrui - British Columbia):

- Conduct a public welfare project educating people about the impact of nuclear waste on humans.
- Increase public understanding of nuclear waste and its implications.

Federalism Dynamics: Enhancing Policy Efficacy through Development, Administration, and Delivery Strategies (Bandhul Vikas Khanna - British Columbia):

- Analytically evaluate Federalism's role in shaping public policy development, administration, and delivery in Canada.
- Bridge civic engagement and knowledge mobilization, empowering individuals to participate actively in governance discussions and decision-making.

Housing Affordability in Canadian Politics Informational Website (Suki Pan - British Columbia):

- Address challenges within the Canadian housing market by providing comprehensive information on home prices.
- Aim to empower individuals with a nuanced understanding of Canada's housing situation, fostering civic awareness and democratic literacy.

How Citizens are Influenced by Political Party Candidates (Nicholas Berda - British Columbia):

- Investigate how citizens' votes are influenced by political party candidates, focusing on factors like age, gender, and ethnicity.
- Align with the goals of civic engagement and knowledge mobilization, providing insights into how civic engagement and knowledge are utilized by political party candidates to gain support.

The Efficacy of the First-Past-The-Post Voting System (Vanessa Lolomari - British Columbia):

- Investigating the first-past-the-post voting system's efficiency in reflecting public political sentiment, the project aims to inform and engage the Canadian youth in civic participation.
- Focused on educating about the electoral system, the project encourages civic knowledge mobilization, empowering voters to initiate change and reform.