Youth Engaged in Philanthropy (YEP) is a youth-led committee of the DeKalb County Community Foundation, designed to encourage and develop the practice of philanthropy in young adults. YEP inspires a lifelong interest and a commitment to serving others in the community, focusing on youth impact.

Guidelines and Eligibility:
Nonprofit organizations and eligible community organizations are invited to apply for a YEP Grant, up to $2,500, for programs and projects that impact youth in DeKalb County. Grant applications are due on February 1 of each year and are reviewed by members of the YEP committee. All grant requests must be submitted online. A site visit or presentation (in-person strongly preferred) is required for all applicants. YEP Grants are project or program-specific. A grant report is due by February 1 of the following year after receiving funds. Grant reports not completed on time may affect future funding for your organization. If an extension is required, please contact us.

YEP Grantmaking Priorities:
- **Be a Youth Initiative**
  - Youth must be directly involved in the project's development and/or implementation. Projects may occur in the areas of Arts & Culture, Community Development, Education, Environment & Animal Welfare, or Health & Human Services.
  - Preference is given to innovative programs or projects.
  - Preference is given to applications submitted by youth applicants or that show strong youth involvement in the project planning process.
  - Grants are limited to a maximum of $2,500 per project.

- **Respect Equitable Opportunity**
  - Projects must respect diversity, equity, and inclusion.
  - Preference is given to programs or projects that work to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion among youth in DeKalb County.

- **Dedicated to Community (DeKalb County, IL)**
  - The project must be in response to a legitimate youth need or direct youth benefit in DeKalb County, IL.

- **Have Accountability**
  - Applicants must have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor and demonstrate a realistic plan with clear goals.
  - Applicants need to report any alterations to their project plans after submission of the application, and the changes need to be approved by the YEP committee.
  - Applicants should be willing to meet in person with YEP representatives either as part of the application process or for a site visit to evaluate the program or project.
  - Applicants should be open to communication from YEP representatives post-site visit or presentation to ensure all questions are answered, and application information is understood.
  - Applicants who receive funding are expected to complete a grant report on the project's success by February 1 the following year.
• Demonstrate Promotion of the 40 Developmental Assets™
  o The projects should be consistent with the YEP’s dedication to youth empowerment, promotion of youth leadership, and the strengthening of youth involvement as reflected in the Search Institute’s Developmental Assets™ framework. The grant application requires knowledge of the 40 Developmental Assets™. For more information, visit: https://dekalbccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/40AssetsList.pdf

Projects Generally Not Funded:
While the Community Foundation remains flexible in meeting community needs, YEP Grants generally do not fund:
• Operational phases of established programs.
• Personnel and/or administrative costs associated with programs or projects.
• Religious purposes (however, grants can be given to religious organizations for non-religious purposes, or facilities such as day-care centers that have non-profit status independent from a sponsoring church or religious organization).
• Purchase of advertising.
• Capital or operational debt reduction.
• Any political campaign or support attempts to influence legislative issues of any government body.
• Consumable items (snacks, refreshments, etc.)

YEP Grantmaking Goal:
Our goal is to assess community youth needs, create clear criteria for grants, and review and evaluate proposals thoroughly. YEP members make grants to support good ideas that will make a difference in our community.

Applications are due online by 11:59 p.m. on February 1.

For more information, contact:
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Revised 08/2023