



Youth Engagement Strategy Funds: Request for Proposals 2020

Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) funds are special regional initiative funds of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. YES projects connect underserved youth to public lands through conservation education, service projects, or career pathways initiatives. The Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, via the Children's Forest of Central Oregon (CFCO), have allocated \$35,000 for projects with Children's Forest partners. Up to \$5,000 is available for each project.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Organizations or agencies must be official Children's Forest partners. Organizations with potential projects that align with funding priorities that are not current Children's Forest partners, are encouraged to submit proposals, and will need to submit an application to join the Children's Forest network upon notification of funding. Information about joining our network and the partner application can be found here: <http://www.childrensforestco.org/partners>. There is no fee to join the Children's Forest.
- Projects must reach schools or communities connected with Deschutes or Ochoco National Forests.
- Organizations that are funded are sub-recipients of federal funds, with the Children's Forest of Central Oregon serving as a pass-through entity. Organizations or agencies must have capabilities to steward federal funds, which includes keeping effective internal controls to ensure funds are properly allocated and providing sufficient details for reporting.

Projects Must:

- Reach underserved populations and communities. Projects that engage Tribal youth, Latinx youth, youth with special needs, or other underrepresented groups will receive higher consideration.
- Leverage community partnerships to connect with underrepresented populations, and provide details for how they will recruit for and adapt programs to meet the needs of target populations.
- Focus on career pathways and leadership and/or include stewardship of public lands.

The timeline for proposals and notification is as follows:

November 13, 2019: RFP available to community partners

December 2-6, 2019: Optional Feedback Window. Organizations can submit their draft proposal to CFCO by December 2, and CFCO will provide an initial round of feedback by December 6.

December 17, 2019: Application deadline

January 15, 2020: Award notification (tentative)

February 1, 2020: Funding available

February 1, 2021: Project completion

To apply:

Submit a proposal (not to exceed 2 pages) with the following information:

- Project name, organization, and contact information
- General project description including project goals and objectives (see Proposal Tips below for examples), audience, project location, and project partners (if applicable).
- Describe how your project focuses on career pathways and leadership and/or includes stewardship of public lands.
- Describe how you plan to reach underserved populations. Discuss how the program will meet the needs of, and be culturally relevant to, the target audience. Describe your recruitment plan (if applicable).
- Provide a Project Budget, using the table below. The Project Budget is not included in the 2 page limit. Partners need to provide at least 20% non-federal match. Maximum funds requested is \$5,000. Please provide a short description of how funds will be monitored to comply with federal standards.

Project Budget Template

	YES Sub-Grant Funds Requested	Project Match	Total
Personnel -			
Travel <i>-NOTE: Do not include bussing costs for school field trips, as schools can access the School Engagement Fund</i> -			
Materials -			
Other -			
Total			

Electronic proposals should be submitted to katie@childrensforestco.org by December 17, 2019 at 5 PM.

Proposal Tips

Applicants should include goals and objectives in their project description. Goals are broad statements that define what you plan to do in a project, or the change you are hoping to make. Below are some examples of goal statements:

- Foster a sense of stewardship for local streams and rivers in youth
- Increase awareness of natural resource career pathways in youth
- Build an appreciation of nature for youth through recreation experiences on public lands

Objectives are more detailed statements describing the ways you will achieve your goals, with measurable results. Below are examples of objective statements:

- Engage 100 students in classroom activities and hands-on, place-based field trips to Willow Creek
- Engage 30 middle school youth in afterschool clubs focused on forest management
- Deliver a 1-week summer camp program for 40 youth that provides field trips to public land sites

Funding Decision Process

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee, who will rank proposals based on specific criteria, using the following rubric. The committee may decide to award partial funding to projects.

Criteria	Score (1-3)	Weight	Total (Score x Weight)
Project has clearly defined goals and objectives		1	
Project activities connect to career pathways and leadership and/or stewardship of public lands		1	
Project reaches underserved or underrepresented communities (emphasis on Tribal youth, Latinx youth, and youth with special needs)		2	
Program activities, curriculum, and recruitment plan thoughtfully meet the needs of the target audience, leveraging partnerships, when applicable		1	
Budget provides sufficient detail, request amount aligns with project impact, and applicant describes their ability to steward federal funds		1	
Total			