



Youth Fund Application: Climate Action & Active Citizenship

ABOUT RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Restless Development is an innovative, global non profit that strengthens Youth Power: the collective force of young leaders to create a better world. We strengthen youth-leadership and youth civil society to be at the forefront of creating lasting change and impact, on our impact priority areas: Education & Livelihoods, Gender & Sexual Rights, Voice & Democracy and Climate Justice. We are independently registered and governed in nine countries (India, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe) with a global team of over 230 people and a growing youth collective of 4000 youth civil society groups in over 180 countries.

OUR APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING

Restless Development considers the welfare and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults to be an organizational imperative with primacy over the success of programmes or strategic objectives. We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we expect all of our staff, volunteers and partners to ensure we protect the communities in which we operate from harm and abide by our [Safeguarding Policy](#).

BACKGROUND

Youth-led civil society organisations mobilise and connect vast networks of young change-makers worldwide. These agile and smaller groups are based at the heart of communities, closest to the problems and able to design locally-guided solutions.

Young people and their networks are vital to help deliver the transformation and mobilisation needed to address climate change in our lifetimes. And yet, the latest [State of Youth Civil Society Report 2024](#), shares that in 2022, 72% of respondents reported a decrease in funding; in 2023 more than 60% of respondents highlighted the need for unrestricted funding. Young Climate Justice found that only 0,76% of climate funding goes to young people. The gaps in funding for young people and the growing need to invest in their power inspired us to dig deeper into the type of resourcing that works in fuelling young people's work.

Whilst youth civil society is vital, it's not thriving - and in many cases, not surviving - with resourcing being one of their biggest challenges.

With this context, the [Youth Climate Action Lab](#) team wants to create the opportunity for youth-lead organisations, networks and movements to access small-scale, flexible funding to support their efforts to tackle the issues of Climate Change.

INTRODUCING YOUTH FUND 2.0

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues affecting young people. Young people's vision of a just and sustainable world is threatened by the ongoing climate change and related systemic problems such as inequitable access to resources due to power imbalances and structural marginalisation.

The youth fund grant addresses the critical need of social-action leadership pathways for young people by providing supportive, flexible resources and complementary support for them to design, implement, and monitor community-centric initiatives. Young people often face marginalization in decision-making processes, limiting their potential to drive meaningful change. With our aim to amplify the work on climate change and social action by building a coalition of youth-led organisations and funding the innovative work being done by young people to tackle the issue, we are looking to provide funding to support a huge diversity of actions, strengthen young climate activists' skills, and improve the collaboration between youth organisations in India to learn from each other and elevate their actions and voice to global platforms to catalyse government commitments and change. The Youth Fund will be **available only in Karnataka**.

The grant responds by offering tailored capacity building, mentorship, and funding support, enabling young leaders to create impactful projects in climate action, education, and active citizenship.

Small flexible grants of maximum 5,00,000 INR will be made available to young people associated with youth led or youth supported organizations with FCRA to lead specific campaigning / implementation activities in their communities to strengthen and inspire collective action, and prioritise Climate Action and Social Action in their area of work.

Design: A Power Shifting Approach

The design and implementation of this fund will embed powershifting principles and approaches (drawing from Restless Development's [Power Shifting Checklist](#)), in particular to:

- Prioritise youth leadership
- Train, support and resource young leaders
- Prioritise safety and happiness
- Be open, dynamic and accountable
- Intentionally shift power
- Be flexible, innovative and creative

ABOUT YOU: AS AN APPLICANT

The Youth Fund supports the campaigning and implementation of small scale projects of young people committed to taking action on climate change or active citizenship; it can also be a combined project idea through collaboration, conversation, awareness, youth engagement or generating public support.

We particularly want to encourage applications that engage a diverse range of young people, including those from underserved communities. We also welcome applications showing collaboration across organisations/networks and links between projects, regions and countries.

You can apply if you are...	We cannot accept applications from...
A young person working with an organization ¹ , that has a valid FCRA	Individuals that are not connected to an organization with a valid FCRA registration
Youth-led organizations with a valid FCRA	Organizations or networks that do not work with Young People or is not Youth Led with focus on Climate Change/Climate Action

¹Organization here refers to an entity registered either as a Trust, or a Society or a Not-for-profit Company under applicable laws in India

Young people associated with an organization, that has a valid FCRA	Organizations or networks not active in India with valid FCRA registration.
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Please note: Due to current restrictions in place, all applicants will require a valid FCRA registration and we will be asking for documents during the due diligence process.

Language: We are only able to accept applications/video applications in English & Kannada language.

We understand this limitation might prevent some organisations and networks from applying, we want to address this limitation in the future and create a more inclusive process in multiple languages for this youth-led fund.

What we can and can't fund:

We can fund	We can't fund
Equipments- that will be required for during the project implementation	Staff salaries- As we stand for fair pay to youth, we will compensate for time devoted to the project period.
One off events- that will be held during the project implementation (e.g. venue hire and refreshments)	Your organization's day to day running costs
Volunteer expenses-that will be held during the project implementation	Overseas travel
Communications materials (e.g. flyers, social media advertising)	Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
Transport-that will be required during the project implementation	Purchase of equipment like printers/laptops etc.
Training costs-that will be required during the project implementation	

COMMITMENTS REQUIRED BY YOUTH FUND APPLICANTS

- Are available to contribute **properly and fully to the project implementation**
- Have regular access to the internet, and are responsive to requests and deadlines;
- Are available to attend induction training & initial Due Diligence process.
- Available to share project progress report in middle of the project implementation and a full detailed project and finance report at the time of final project submission.

KEY DATES

Interested applicants, who have read this Terms of Reference and are able to meet all of the requirements listed, are invited to complete the [online application form](#).

- Fill the application form by **06th March, 2025**. Please note we **DO NOT** accept CVs, resumes or cover letters.
- For any questions about the Youth Climate Action Lab project or the application process please email poorvi@restlessdevelopment.org