



Northern Youth Cultural Fund Fall 2026 Guidelines

Application deadline: **October 15th, 2026**

Please read the Guidelines carefully before you start your application. Before you apply, contact consultant Ryan Karakochuk at rkarakochuk@nscrd.com or 306-688-2122 to make sure your project is eligible and that this grant is the right fit.

SaskCulture has an [Accessibility Fund](#). If you have trouble with the language, technology, accessibility, or any part of the application process, the Accessibility Fund is here to support you. Contact the Consultant to learn more.

You can ask for up to \$5,000 for eligible project costs.

PURPOSE

The Northern Youth Cultural Fund (NYCF) provides funding to cultural groups, organizations, schools, libraries, Friendship Centres, First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis Locals, Métis Regions, and municipalities for cultural, artistic, or creative interactive activities for children and youth up to age 19 in northern Saskatchewan, within the **Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District boundaries**. Please see [Northern District Map](#) for details.

This funding initiative is made possible thanks to the support of Sask Lotteries.

Partnership with the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District

SaskCulture Inc. is working in partnership with the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District to assist in the promotion, support, and delivery of the Northern Youth Cultural Fund. Applicants are encouraged to connect with Northern District staff for guidance regarding their application. Please visit <https://www.nscrd.com/funding/> to contact a district representative in your area.

OBJECTIVES

The Northern Youth Cultural Fund aims to fund programs that:

- connect children and youth to unique, life-changing artistic and cultural experiences in their communities
- provide all children and youth with the opportunity to participate in creative activities regardless of economic barriers they may face
- provide financial support so all kids have an opportunity to participate in creative activities like drama, art, dance, culture, and music
- support cultural programming, which is critical to a healthy, vibrant community

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY ---

You do not need to be a SaskCulture member to apply for SaskCulture funding.

Who can apply:

- **Registered non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan.** The applicant must be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year; and have a cultural mandate in Arts, Heritage, Multiculturalism or Cultural Industries as defined by [SaskCulture's Cultural Policy](#), or otherwise demonstrate significant engagement in cultural activity.

OR

- **First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis Locals, Métis Regions or Municipalities,** located within the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District, and be in good standing with the Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program.

OR

- **Schools, Libraries, or Friendship Centres** located within the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District.

Additionally, applicants:

- must **not have any outstanding grant follow-up reports** or **overdue** SaskCulture grants. A new grant application will not be considered until all outstanding grants are closed. If you have any pending reports, overdue grants, or an ongoing NYCF grant, please contact the NYCF Consultant to discuss your options
- can only apply to one NYCF grant at a time

Who cannot apply:

- Organizations that have received any SaskCulture or significant Sask Lotteries-funding in the last year
- Districts for Sport, Culture and Recreation
- Organizations receiving Annual Global Funding
- Individuals
- Organizations with outstanding grant follow-up reports due to SaskCulture
- Businesses
- Unincorporated groups

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY ---

The NYCF is intended to support cultural, artistic, or creative interactive projects / programs for children and youth up to age 19 who have financial barriers to participation and who reside within Saskatchewan's Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District.

Most part of the planned Project activity/ Programming must take place outside of the regular school curriculum and hours. In addition, programming must take place within the northern district unless approved by administrator.

Programs can be new or existing but must be cultural / creative in nature and focused on youth. Eligible projects must start no sooner than four (4) weeks after the application deadline and must end within twelve (12) months of the project start date. Projects that commence sooner than 4 weeks after the deadline will not be considered. Retroactive project funding is not eligible.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES include:

Arts / Creative Activities – drawing, sculpture, photography, filmmaking, pottery, creative writing, painting, board game design, video game creation, fashion design, music recording / production, printmaking, etc.

Heritage – heritage activities, Indigenous traditional arts, language lessons (except French or English), genealogy, archaeology, regalia making, land-based traditional education, etc.

Dance – hip hop, modern, jigging, tap, salsa, jazz, ballet, powwow, hoop, etc.

Drama / Theatre – acting, theatre workshops, improv, playwriting, etc.

Music – piano, drums, choir (except school choirs), guitar, singing, band instruments, bass, banjo, etc.

Camps – culture camps, band camp, bluegrass camp, drama / theatre camps, circus camps, art camps, museum camps, girls rock camp, etc. (Camp must provide children with quality art, music, drama, dance, heritage or cultural activities).

PRIORITY will be given to:

- the equitable distribution of funds across the Northern District
- projects and organizations not already funded significantly by other Sask Lotteries-supported grant programs
- projects with a focus on implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action or other reconciliation efforts. The TRC Calls to Action can be found at: http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

Projects submitted that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be reviewed. Please consult with Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District and/or the NYCF consultant to ensure your project fits the purpose of this grant; and for other options if your project does not meet the grant purpose.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are not eligible:

- any activity primarily based on fitness, sport, recreation, science, or religion
- programming / projects taking place during regular school hours
- fitness and physical activity – Zumba, yoga, gymnastics, baton twirling, cheerleading, or sports
- 4-H, Boy / Girl Scouts, Girl Guides, summer camps (except artistic and cultural camps)
- lego-based activities and camps
- youth leadership conferences
- science and engineering-based activities
- programming, web development and coding
- Bible camps, Leadership camps

- art therapy
- French or English classes
- fees for choir trips, band trips and school band fees
- activities that promote definable religious or political viewpoints
- activities that focus on technical skills like woodworking, sewing, or cooking unless artistic or cultural aspects are the main focus

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES ---

Funds cannot be used for:

- capital expenses, such as construction, renovations or repairs or purchase of major equipment such as computers, smart phones, power tools, etc.
- performative or passive entertainment that does not include an exchange of cultural knowledge or awareness
- cash prizes, gifts, medals, trophies, or charitable donations
- purchase of alcohol
- sponsorships, fundraisers or award ceremonies
- activity that exclusively promotes definable religious or political viewpoints
- contributions of volunteer hours
- food or food-related costs are generally ineligible. However, up to 20% of the grant may be used for nutrition if these costs can be directly attributed to the cultural activity
- allowances, wages or personal expenses for program registrants and participants
- out-of-province travel expenses for initiative participants to attend competitions, festivals, award ceremonies, etc.
- contracts with out-of-province cultural workers (unless there is no one in Saskatchewan providing that service)
- retroactive program funding
- salaries and expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization – except when they are hired to perform the duties of a cultural worker
- office and administration fees including utilities, rent and/or rental of an applicant organization's facilities
- in-kind contributions and donations for food, goods, services, equipment, waiving rental fees, etc.
- volunteer hours as a budget expense

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES ---

Funds can be used to cover costs associated with operating a cultural, creative, or artistic program, including:

- expenses directly tied to holding cultural activity or activities for children and youth up to 19
- honorariums / Fees for Elders / Traditional Knowledge Keepers / Cultural Workers / Facilitators
- travel and accommodations for facilitators and participants
- facility and equipment rentals
- supplies and materials needed to complete the activity
- healthy nutrition
- insurance (special event insurance)
- evaluation costs
- advertising and promotional costs

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Contact the NYCF Consultant before you apply.
- Send in a complete application form and budget by the deadline.
- Clearly explain how your project meets the NYCF objectives and assessment criteria.
- Include letters of support from people or groups in your community.
- Complete and submit your application online at grants.saskculture.ca by **October 15th, 2026**, at **11:59pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.
- If your application is approved, submit a Follow-Up Report within 45 days after your project ends.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications that are complete and submitted on time will be reviewed (assessed) by volunteer peer assessors approved by SaskCulture Inc. The assessment panel will include people from northern Saskatchewan communities.
- Applicants will be told the result of their application about 4 weeks after the application deadline.
- Funding decisions are final. They cannot be appealed or reviewed again.
- **You must use the grant money only for the eligible activities listed in your application. NSCRD must approve any major changes before you make them. You cannot move the money to other activities or organizations. Any unused money must be returned to SaskCulture.**
- **If your application is approved, keep all receipts and records for your project.** The Follow-Up Report form is available online. Review it when your project starts so you know what information to track during the project.
- Approved applicants will receive the full grant amount after the grant is approved.

APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

The volunteer peer assessors will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- evidence of the ability of the organization to carry out the project and deliver quality programs and services
- extent to which the project provides quality cultural, artistic, or creative interactive activities for children and youth up to age 19 in northern Saskatchewan
- evidence and qualifications of the key cultural leaders
- extent to which the activity is responsive to a community-identified need
- realistic and responsible use of resources (funds, volunteers, etc.)

Clear writing and attention to detail may help your application. However, you do not need to be a professional grant writer, and English does not need to be your first language. Contact the Consultant to ask about supports that may help you prepare your proposal.