



## Northern Youth Cultural Fund Spring 2026 Guidelines

*Application deadline: **May 14, 2026***

Please read the Guidelines carefully before starting the grant application. Applicants should contact the NYCF consultant, **Ryan Karakochuk** at [rkarakochuk@nscrd.com](mailto:rkarakochuk@nscrd.com) or 306-688-2122 before submitting an application to check if their project idea is eligible and ensure this grant program is the best fit.

If you face any barriers (language, technology, accessibility challenges, etc.) in navigating the criteria, application questions, and the application process, please reach out to the Consultant for details about the [Accessibility Fund](#).

### PURPOSE

---

The Northern Youth Cultural Fund (NYCF) provides funding to cultural groups, organizations, schools, libraries, Friendship Centres, First Nations, Tribal Councils, Métis Locals/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](#). The Northern Youth Cultural Fund may be used to support youth-focused cultural programs up to \$5,000. *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

---

To be considered eligible for funding, applicant organizations must include:

- **Registered non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan**, which includes Métis Locals/Regions. The applicant must be in existence as a registered non-profit for at least one full fiscal year; and have a primarily 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 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 reconciled or 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

**Ineligible Applicants include:**

- 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
- Organization with outstanding grant follow-up reports due to SaskCulture

## 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](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:

- operating costs, salaries, and related expenses of existing staff of the applicant organization(s)
- capital expenses, such as construction, renovations or repairs or purchase of major equipment such as computers, video camcorders, 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

---

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the NYCF consultant to discuss their application prior to submitting.
- Applicants must submit a complete application form and budget, at the latest by the deadline date.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the project meets the NYCF objectives and assessment criteria.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to include letters of support from community stakeholders.
- Applications must be completed and submitted online at [grants.saskculture.ca](https://grants.saskculture.ca) and are due by **May 14, 2026**, by **11:59pm**. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- Successful applicants are expected to provide a Follow-Up Report 45 days after the end of the project.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

---

- Completed applications received in full and on time will be adjudicated by volunteer peer assessors approved by SaskCulture Inc. and will include representatives from northern communities of Saskatchewan.
- Applicants will be notified regarding the success of their application within approximately 4 weeks of the application deadline.
- Funding decisions are final and will not be revisited or appealed.
- **Funds can only be used for the eligible activities outlined in your application. Significant changes to the use of funds must be approved by NSCRD. Funds cannot be transferred to other activities or organizations and unused funds must be returned to SaskCulture.**
- **If approved, you are required to retain all supporting receipts;** the Follow-Up Report form is immediately available online and should be referred to at the beginning of the project as statistical information will need to be gathered during the project.
- Successful applicants shall receive 100% of their total grant allocation upon grant approval.

## APPLICATION ASSESSMENT

---

The volunteer peer assessors will adjudicate 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.)

**The quality of writing and attention to detail in a grant application may benefit an applicant's chances of success. However, we understand not everyone who is applying for funding is a professional grant writer or that English may not be the primary language of the person applying. Please contact the Consultant to discuss options to help you with your proposal.**