



Youth Social Action Project Orientation

Metro United Way - July 7, 2026

**MUW Youth Success
Team is committed to
cultivating
opportunities for youth
in our seven-county
region to be leaders
and change agents in
their communities.**



What Is A Youth Social Action?

1. A youth development approach that empowers young people to identify issues affecting their schools, neighborhoods, and communities and take meaningful action to address them.
2. Positions young people as leaders, problem-solvers, and change agents capable of creating positive community impact.
3. Implemented through structured opportunities that examine community needs, research root causes, engage stakeholders, and design solutions.
4. Rooted in Project-Based Learning (PBL).
5. Adults serve as facilitators and coaches rather than directors.
6. Creates authentic opportunities for youth voice and leadership while strengthening connections between young people, their communities, and local institutions.
7. Creates meaningful educational experiences that foster civic responsibility, academic growth, social-emotional development, and long-term community engagement.

Examples of Youth Social Action Projects

2022 - KYA Reform Louisville

Young people focused on empowering youth of color from neighborhoods negatively impacted by violence and justice system involvement

Created 30 TikTok videos focused on the SPIRE model: spiritual, physical, intellectual, relational, and emotional healing and wellbeing

2024 - The Book Works

Young people led a community-wide event “502 Change Fest” to connect youth to resources and organizations centered on harm reduction, youth safety, and mental health

Promoting awareness and creating opportunities for youth to get involved with community organizations and programs

2024 - TECH-nique

Young people leading engaging and interactive workshops aimed to introduce community members to the world of AI, how it works, practical applications, and ethical considerations and biases.

Funding Information

Funding Amount:

- Up to \$5,000

Project Period:

- September 2026 through June 2027

Allowable Expenses:

- Food/supplies to support project-planning meetings with youth
- Youth stipends: Metro United Way strongly encourages compensating youth for their time, leadership, and expertise whenever possible.
- Direct project costs (NOTE: no more than 50% of funds can be used for staff personnel costs)

Expectations of Funded Organizations

If your organization receives the grant, you are expected to:

- At least one representative from your organization must be present at the YSAP Kick-Off meeting.
- Your organization must be responsive to communication and available to schedule check-ins with the Youth Success Team.
- Must submit a project plan to the Youth Success Team before completing your project.
- Must complete a final report by June 30th, 2027.

Key Dates

Orientation: Tuesday, July 7th, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Application Open: Wednesday, July 1st, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Application Closes: Friday, July 17th, 2026, at 11:59 PM

Awards Announced: Friday, August 28th, 2026

Funded Partners YSAP Kick-Off Orientation: Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

Project Period: September 2026 through June 2027.

Who Can Apply?

To qualify for YSAP, your organization must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization or fiscally sponsored by one.
- Attach a copy of your IRS letter or one from the sponsoring 501(c)(3) organization with a letter stating their willingness to be the fiscal sponsor.
- Be a youth-serving organization working with youth ages 12-24.
- Provide services within Metro United Way's Seven County Service Area: Harrison, Floyd and Clark Counties in Indiana and Jefferson, Bullitt, Oldham and Shelby Counties in Kentucky.

Before applying, you must:

- Request login credentials through the Credential Registration Portal.
- You will receive the credentials within one business day from when you completed the “request for login credentials.”
- That email will include **your** unique link to the YSAP Grant Application. Do not share with anyone else.

Application Overview

The application itself is 9 questions.

In this application, you will be asked to highlight how the social action project will:

- Include and amplify youth voices and change efforts in the community
- Identify and address the needs of your agency/organization/community
- Include efforts to advance community change in collaboration with young people

Only **ONE** application per organization will be accepted.

Selection Process

Grants will be scored based on the organization's ability to incorporate youth voice, youth leadership, and equity practices/policies in project planning, implementation, and reflection.

Once applications are submitted, there will be a two-step review process. The first step will be an adult review by Metro United Way and The Book Works Staff of all submitted applications to ensure they meet the minimum requirements of youth/adult partnership and social action project-based activity proposed in the application.

Applications that meet these requirements will then proceed to the second step, where they will be reviewed by young people who will make the final funding recommendations. The young people will be trained and supported by staff from The Book Works and Metro United Way.

Following the review process, the recommendations will go to our Community Impact Cabinet for funding authorization and to the Metro United Way Board of Directors for final approval.

Application Tips:

1. Be careful cutting and pasting from Word! Our online database HATES Bullets!
2. I repeat, our online form hates bullets. They will cause errors.
3. In the application, there is a "Save" button that will save their progress but allow them to still continue editing. I recommend saving every so often to avoid losing any work. (This can also give them the freedom to complete the application in multiple sittings, if needed)
4. This is optional, but take a look at the subtabs underneath the "Agency Information" tab once you have access to the portal. The Agency Profile and Agency Contact subtabs are the information we have about your agency. You can edit your agency's contact information and contacts. This helps us keep our record of your agency accurate and remove any outdated or incorrect information.
5. **Please do not wait until Friday, July 17th to request credentials or start completing the application.**
6. Don't forget to attach a copy of your IRS letter or one from the sponsoring 501(c)(3) organization with a letter stating their willingness to be the fiscal sponsor.

Let's Look at the Application!

Need to Contact Us?



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