

# SEEDING STRENGTH GRANT GUIDELINES



2024 Round 3

**Round 3 of the Seeding Strength Grants** is up to \$100k total of funding available in 2024, open to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (16-35) and organisations fighting injustice and building Black power across the country.




# What is Seeding Strength?

**Our vision is that First Nations young people's voices and truth are heard and respected on the change they want to see. They are strong in spirit, stories, connected to community, land, language and culture. First Nations young people are self-determined, sovereign caretakers of country. They are living free from racism, discrimination, domination and injustices. The future is Blak and strong, and country is healing.**

One of the powerful ways that FYA can support young First Nations people and their communities to create change is by shifting resources. First Nations young people and their campaigns, movements and projects need financial backing to win. We have a role in fundraising, shifting resources through grant-making, monitoring and evaluation, and increasing philanthropic connections.

The young mob that we'll be funding, we will provide support to in terms of ensuring that they have the governance and systems in place to use the funds for maximum impact. We'll also work with them to embed and increase monitoring and evaluation skills to build the evidence base of this work, with the aim of securing ongoing sustainable funding for long term change.

<sup>1</sup> In this document, we use the term 'First Nations' to mean Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# What we'll fund

Our First Nations team's role is to back young First Nations people to channel and grow our **strengths and strategies** to **dismantle racist systems** of harm and oppression, to **build and transform our power**; continuing the fight for and **maintaining our sovereignty**.

Through our First Nations Strategy, we've identified 5 impact areas that are critical to shifting power to young mob for them to create the self-determined change in their communities and on this sacred land.

## Grant area

## Examples

<p><b>Truth telling and storytelling:</b> Young mob's voices and stories need to be heard, truth telling and shifting narratives is critical to achieving First Nations justice and healing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A truth-telling film made by a First Nations young person.</li> <li>• A project supporting First Nations young people with lived experience of injustices to tell their stories on different platforms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Decolonising policies and institutions and re-Indigenising solutions:</b> Harmful, racist, colonial institutions and policies must be dismantled to end injustices facing young mob, and First Nations ways of doing, knowing and solutions should be embraced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A campaign on climate justice focused on First Nations solutions run by grassroots mob.</li> <li>• A project in a First Nations community building evidence on alternatives to prisons or police.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Global Solidarity:</b> Right now its important to build global solidarity between all colonised peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overseas international exchange trip building connection, healing, well-being, relationship building and solidarity</li> <li>• Hold an activity locally to help build solidarity in your community</li> <li>• This could be with Palestine, Kanaks, West Papua, Maori and other global movements to bring people together in solidarity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building and strengthening movements and campaigns:</b> First Nations young people will achieve transformative change through strong movements and effective campaigns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing over a global First Nations speaker to do a workshop with young mob.</li> <li>• Core funding (ie salaries) for First Nations justice campaigns or movements.</li> <li>• Holding a protest or creative action in a community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Facilitating vision creation:</b> Having a strong vision and being able to gather and connect is critical to transformative change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding a gathering of young mob together in your movement to create a vision.</li> <li>• Workshops to imagine the world we want to create.</li> </ul>

**We believe that by supporting and funding campaigns, movements and projects in these five areas, young mob will build and reshape their power and this will lead to transformative change:**

- Young mob’s voices & truth will be heard on the change they want to see.
- Young mob will be strong in spirit, stories, connected to community, land, language and culture.
- Young mob will be self-determined, sovereign caretakers of country.
- Young mob will be living free from racism, discrimination, domination and injustices.
- The future is Blak and strong, and country is healing.



**FYA First Nations Strategy**

# Our values

- We back First Nations young people and our communities efforts for self-determination, sovereignty, land back, ritual back, culture back, language back, water back, climate justice, disability justice, political power and prison abolition.
- We centre and are led by the vision, knowledge, culture, expertise and values of First Nations peoples.
- We are committed to decolonisation and we work to undo the harms of ongoing colonisation.
- We are trauma-informed and we centre holistic and First Nations models of wellbeing, care and healing.
- We provide safe and inclusive spaces and understand the intersectional experiences of LGBTQIA+ mob, mob living with a disability and young parents.
- We are accountable, transparent and evaluate our work.
- We show solidarity and connect with First Nations people across the world.



# Grant round

In 2024, we will have one round of funding of up to total \$100,000 for round 3, with two types of grants available.

## Rapid response:

Applications for Rapid Response grants are open all year round.

We understand that these can be urgent situations. We'll make initial contact within a week, but allow a month for the turn around of funds if successful. We will aim to get them to you as soon as possible.

## Seeding Strength Round 3, 2024:

<b>Expressions of interest open</b>	<b>7 July - 7 August</b>
<b>Online info session</b>	<b>24 July</b>
<b>Shortlist announced</b>	<b>18 August</b>
<b>Recipients notified</b>	<b>4 September</b>
<b>Announce Grantees</b>	<b>10 September</b>
<b>Funds released</b>	<b>Mid September</b>



# Types of grants



## Two types of grants are available:

- **Rapid response:** First Nations young people (aged 16-35 years) can apply for rapid response grants of \$2,000 to \$10,000 for urgent campaigns/movements/initiatives relating to social change in response to systematic oppression & specific injustices of First Nations young people.
- **Campaign, movement or project based:** First Nations young people (aged 16-35 years) can apply for grants (from \$2,000 to \$50,000) to support core funding for existing or new campaigns, movements and projects in our four impact areas:
  - Truth-telling and storytelling
  - Decolonising, dismantling and re-Indigenising
  - Building and strengthening movements, campaigns and global solidarity
  - Facilitating vision creation

## When does the money have to be spent?

The money can be spent over 1-2 years, let us know about this in your budget break down.



# Who can apply?

## You can apply for this grant if you are:

- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person;
- Aged 16-35 years of age (priority will be given to young mob under 25 years of age);
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation;
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run movement or collective.

You can also apply on someone else's behalf.

## You cannot apply for this grant if you are:

- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who works for a non-Indigenous organisation and is applying for these funds on their behalf.



# Selection criteria

Grant recipients will be selected by a panel of three First Nations people from our First Nations Governance Group. These are all young mob aged under 35 years. You can read more about our First Nations Governance Group [here](#).

## We will prioritise funding for:

- **Grassroots and not-for-profit** campaigns, projects, organisations and movements. By grassroots, we mean campaigns, projects and movements that are based in community and not attached to an organisation. By not-for-profit, we mean you don't generate income from your campaign, project or movement.
- **Young mob aged 16-25 years.**
- **Current funding:** Campaigns/movements/projects who don't currently have much funding and funding opportunities (and are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run and controlled);
- **Lived experience:** Movements, projects or campaigns that have a focus on being led by people who have lived experience being disabled or LGBTQI+, in the justice system, state care, mental health system, impacts of climate change and/or housing instability.

## The panel will also take into consideration:

- **Intersectionality:** We will also aim to fund a diverse mix (age, ability, gender, mobs) of people and campaigns/movements/projects recognising that there are multiple layers of discrimination and injustice for intersectional mob.
- **Location:** We will aim to fund a diverse mix of young people and campaigns/movements/projects from regional and remote areas, alongside a mix of state and territories.

## Funding criteria:

<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person;</li><li>• Aged 16-35 years of age (priority will be given to young mob under 25 years of age);</li><li>• An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation;</li><li>• An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run movement or collective.</li><li>• You can also apply on someone else's behalf.</li></ul>
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a vision for how you want to create change for young mob. For the expression of interest, we want to hear from you about how what you are doing is going to create change.</li></ul>
<b>Making change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your campaign, project or movement is focussed on something important to First Nations young people and has the potential for transformative change. This means long term changes that will reimagine how communities, policies and systems work.</li></ul>
<b>Budget</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a clear idea of how you will spend the money and how much money you need.</li></ul>
<b>Cultural governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have accountability to your community for how you'll spend the money. This might look like a group of Elders or community members that guide you. This could be partnering with local community groups or organisations or letters of support from your local community/elders.</li></ul>
<b>Theory of change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have a strong theory of change (don't worry, we'll help you create this!), which means we understand how your campaign or movement will lead to change happening. We'll help applicants who are shortlisted to create this.</li></ul>
<b>For Rapid Response applications, there is an extra criteria:</b>	
<b>Urgency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You need this money urgently to address a crisis or injustice in community. This might be something unexpected, or it could be a critical moment for a campaign that you are running and you want to take advantage of it.</li></ul>

# How much should I apply for?

Start by making a copy of, and using our [budgeting template](#). For Round 3, you can apply from \$2,000 to \$50,000. For Rapid Response, you can apply between \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Think through all of the different expenses that you'll need for your project, campaign or movement. Make an informed guess of how much things will cost (for example, getting quotes or researching online).

Look at how much money you already have to do the project. Have you got grants from other places, or are you applying for them?

Once you know how much you need and how much you have, the difference between these two amounts will show you how much to apply for.

## Reporting

- We are doing our best not to replicate colonial ways of reporting funding, which can be a barrier to mob receiving funding for important work in our communities.
- Our reporting process will be simple, managed by the First Nations Team, and tailored to your needs.



# Application process

<b>Step 1</b>	<p>Fill out this short Expression of Interest form, by writing or video. If you need help, <a href="#">book in a time</a> with our team. Someone else can also apply on your behalf.</p> <p>You can attach any supporting documents that you think will strengthen your application. For example, a written letter of support from community. Though you don't have to complete this step until your application has been shortlisted, we have linked a <a href="#">Budget template</a> and <a href="#">Theory of Change</a> template in preparation for the final interview.</p>
<b>Step 2</b>	<p>You'll be notified if you have made it onto the shortlist by 18 August 2024. If you are on the shortlist, you'll be invited to do a more detailed application (including a breakdown of budget and the theory of change) and/or interview. This will involve meeting with a member of our First Nations team to complete the documents and you'll also record a short video.</p> <p>If you aren't comfortable recording your own video, we can help with that.</p>
<b>Step 3</b>	<p>The panel will consider your application. You'll be notified of the outcome of your application by 4 September 2024. If you are unsuccessful, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with the First Nations team to get more feedback.</p>
<b>Step 4</b>	<p>If you are successful, the funds will be released to you by mid-September.</p>
<b>Step 5</b>	<p>There'll be a reporting process, but we'll keep it simple. We'll tailor this to your needs.</p>



**Keen to apply?**  
Register your interest



[fya.org.au/seeding-strength](https://fya.org.au/seeding-strength)