

# GUIDELINES

## Youth Justice Project

### Seed Grant for Youth-Led Community Action 2026 (CAPs)

#### 1. YOUTH JUSTICE PROJECT OVERVIEW

The **Y-Justice Project** is a youth-driven initiative led by **ActionDignity** that empowers racialized youth (RY) aged **15 - 26** to understand and exercise their legal rights, advocate for themselves, and influence meaningful policy change. Grounded in principles of **equity, inclusion, and community leadership**, the project seeks to ensure that youth - particularly those from equity-deserving communities - feel safe, supported, and heard in schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

Through community engagement and research, the initiative strengthens youth knowledge of their rights, builds leadership skills, and supports youth-led solutions. **Community Action Plans (CAPs)** are a key component, enabling youth and communities to turn awareness into coordinated action and meaningful systems change.

#### 2. ABOUT Y-JUSTICE COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS (CAPs)

**ActionDignity's Community Action Plan (CAP)** is a key tool for strengthening the capacity of organizations, community leaders, and youth leaders to identify local issues, prioritize community needs, design, and implement effective community-led responses.

As part of this approach, the **Y-Justice Initiative** addresses the systemic barriers that racialized youth face within legal, educational, and social systems. The initiative empowers youth not only to understand their rights but also to take on leadership roles in identifying challenges, shaping priorities, and advancing solutions through community-driven action.

Each CAP serves as a strategic roadmap that outlines targeted actions to address the legal barriers identified by participating communities. Grounded in the lived experiences of racialized youth, these plans provide a structured process for youth to assess local challenges, set priorities, and lead collective actions that improve access to justice while contributing to broader systemic change.

### 3. PROGRAM STRATEGY PILLARS

All Community Action Plans (CAPs) must align with at least one of the following pillars. Alignment with multiple pillars is encouraged.

**Table 1:** *Program strategies, focus, activities and expected outcomes*

Program Strategy Pillar	Focus	Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:	Expected Outcomes
<b>Pillar 1: Legal Awareness and Education</b>	Strengthening youth understanding of legal rights, responsibilities, and protections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Conversation Circles (CCCs)</li> <li>• Legal literacy workshops and information sessions</li> <li>• Engagement with schools, families, and community members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved youth access to accessible legal information</li> <li>• Increased awareness of rights in contexts such as schools, public spaces, and interactions with authorities</li> <li>• Enhanced community understanding of youth legal issues</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 2: Youth Capacity and Systems Leadership</b>	Developing youth capacity to analyze systems and navigate institutional barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems navigation and leadership training</li> <li>• Training for natural supports (peers, mentors, community members)</li> <li>• Advocacy and civic engagement skill development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased youth leadership and critical systems thinking</li> <li>• Strengthened community-based support networks</li> <li>• Improved ability to identify and respond to systemic barriers</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 3: Youth-Led Action and Policy Influence</b>	Supporting youth to design and implement action-oriented initiatives that influence systems change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth-led community interventions addressing identified systemic issues (campaign, video addressing systemic issues that impact youth etc)</li> <li>• Engagement with institutional stakeholders and decision-makers</li> <li>• Advocacy, awareness campaigns, and community mobilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translation of community knowledge into concrete action</li> <li>• Strengthened youth–institution relationships</li> <li>• Contribution to policy, practice, or systems improvement</li> </ul>

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants must meet all the following:

- Be an active member organization of ActionDignity.
- Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate meaningful collaboration among multiple grassroots organizations representing diverse communities, working together to address collective issues and develop a shared Community Action Plan (CAP).
- Demonstrate strong connections with racialized youth communities and ensure meaningful youth engagement throughout the design and implementation of the CAP.
- Demonstrate the organizational capacity to implement the proposed CAP within the project timeline.
- Attend the **mandatory in person** CAP Grant Process Orientation on **July 21 (5.30-7.30 pm at ActionDignity Office)** [Register here Youth Justice Project Call for Proposals – Orientation Meeting](#)
- Preference may be given to organizations that have participated in ActionDignity trainings or youth-related programming.

#### 5. NON-ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Organizations will not be eligible for funding if they:

- Are currently implementing ActionDignity’s CAPs or Charitable partnerships.
- Have outstanding reporting requirements for previous ActionDignity-funded projects.
- Have pending or incomplete narrative and financial reports (unresolved financial, contractual or invoicing issues with ActionDignity)
- Are not in good standing with their ActionDignity membership
- Do not have an active ActionDignity membership at the time of application review

#### 6. FUNDING INFORMATION

Collaborative applications involving at least two ActionDignity member organizations may apply for seed grants of up to **CAD \$5500-6,000** to jointly develop and implement a Community Action Plan (CAP) aligned with one or more Program Strategy Pillars.

**Eligible expenses (may) include:**

Type	#	Amount	Supporting documents
<b>Facilitator</b>	≤1 hour	\$50	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers,
	>1 - 2 hours or more	\$75	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers
<b>Guest Speaker/Panelist</b>	≤1 hour	\$100	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers
	>1 - 2 hours or more	\$250	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers

<b>Research Participants</b>	1 -1.5 hour	\$50	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers
	≤1 hour	\$25	Invoice, receipts, e-transfers
<b>Honoraria</b>			Receipts, e-transfers.
<b>Food</b>	Per participant	15-18.00	Attendance list
<b>Rent</b>	Per venue		Invoice, receipts, e-transfer
<b>Bus tickets</b>	Per ticket		Tickets
<b>Materials and supplies</b>	Per participant		Receipts
<b>Translation and accessibility support</b>	Per event		Invoice, receipts, e-transfers

## 7. TIMELINE

ACTIVITY	DATE
<b>Call for Proposals Opens</b>	July 9, 2026
<b>CAP Orientation</b>	July 21, 2026
<b>Proposal Submission Deadline</b>	July 27, 2026
<b>Proposal Review and Selection</b>	July 28 - August 4
<b>Implementation Period</b>	August 10 - November 10, 2026
<b>Final Reporting Deadline</b>	November 20, 2026
<b>Knowledge Mobilization Event:</b>	December 1, 2026

## 8. ASSESMENT CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed based on:

Criteria	Assigned Weight
Alignment with Youth Justice Strategy Pillars	15%
Demonstrated understanding of community needs	10%
Level and quality of youth engagement and leadership	15%
Feasibility of implementation within scope and timeline	10%
Strength of partnerships and collaboration strategy	25%
Clarity of expected outcomes and potential impact	10%
Budget realism, clarity, and appropriateness	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 9. APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligible organizations may submit their proposal through:

<https://connect.actiondignity.org/>

Support is available for organizations that requiring assistance in their proposal development.

For questions or technical support, applicants are encouraged to contact ActionDignity directly:

**Phone number:** +1 587-323-9102

**Email:** Desiree.Alvarez@actiondignity.org

## 10. FINAL NOTES

ActionDignity is **not a funder**. The support provided comes from a limited seed grant set aside to empower member and partner organizations to lead, plan, and organize equity-focused work within their communities and in collaboration with others.

- The grant is intended to: Support grassroots innovation and experimentation
- Strengthen collaborative, community-based action
- Advance youth justice through collective learning and systems engagement

ActionDignity strongly values collaboration, shared learning, and collective action as essential approaches to advancing youth justice outcomes and systems change.