



NWT YOUTH WATER STEWARDSHIP AND MENTORSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Information and Eligibility

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Natural Resources is pleased to support youth in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to make their water stewardship project ideas a reality.

Youth in the NWT are passionate about water and have innovative ideas to enhance water stewardship in their communities. Youth engagement and capacity building in water stewardship is important for continued success of *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: The NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* (the Water Strategy) and long-term water stewardship in the North.

The purpose of the grant program is to support youth engagement and leadership in water stewardship through mentorship and small project grants. The goal is to connect young people to experiences and resources that further build their skills and interests in water stewardship. Total program funding is \$10,000.

1. What is it?

The NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program provides funding to youth 18 to 30 years old to lead community projects that support the goals and vision of the Water Strategy.

2. How do I apply?

2.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for the program and to receive funding, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are between 18 and 30 years of age, are an NWT resident and are passionate about supporting water stewardship in the NWT.
- You will be the person leading this project.
- Your project is supported by at least one mentor in the NWT or you are open to having a mentor assigned to you.
- You have a water stewardship project idea that will benefit a community in the NWT, including people and the environment.
- Your project supports the vision and goals of the Water Strategy.

- You have determined the resources needed to successfully complete the project and are looking for a maximum of \$5,000 in funding.
- Your project will be completed by March 31 of the following year.
- You are open to attending Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee meetings and Annual Water Stewardship Strategy Implementation Workshops in Yellowknife.
- Your project has a sponsoring organization that is eligible to enter a Standard Contribution Agreement with the GNWT and willing to administer funds if your application is successful.

2.2 Getting started

Before jumping into your application, take some time to review the application materials, compile your project ideas and discuss your ideas with your peers.

Some ideas for inspiration include:

- Plan activities or an event to celebrate Canada Water Week (third week of March) in your community. Some examples might include: a local fish fry, movie nights, organizing a water treatment plant tour with your local operator, a water photo contest, water trivia night or a water stewardship speaker event.
- Work with a teacher to invite Elders and other water experts to deliver classroom education sessions.
- Organize workshops or land-based activities that support water stewardship.
- Work with Elders or other experts to lead community winter monitoring activities such as snow or ice monitoring.
- Host a water-related storytelling and knowledge sharing event.
- Organize afterschool youth activities to promote water stewardship.

Review application materials: Review the application materials and grant processes and contact us if you have any questions (nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca).

Think ahead: Take some time to think about project ideas and how they contribute to water stewardship. Also think about the benefits of your project to you and others in your community.

Set goals: Clarify your project goals and ensure they are specific, realistic and meaningful.

Mentor: Mentors are people you trust who will provide support and advice on your project throughout planning and implementation. These could be members of your community such as Elders, teachers, coaches, members of the [Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee](#), members of community organizations or other networks. Mentors are people who can help you plan and connect to maximize the benefits of your project.

Research: Talk to your peers and community members and make sure your project focuses on supporting water stewardship and is important to people and the environment.

Sponsoring organization: A sponsoring organization is any organization that is eligible to enter into a Standard Contribution Agreement with the GNWT and willing to administer the financial part of your project grant. These organizations often include: Indigenous and community governments and organizations, not-for-profit organizations, resource boards, regulatory boards, and universities and colleges. Please contact us if you are having trouble securing a sponsoring organization (nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca).

2.3 Completing an application

The application form is available for download at nwtwaterstewardship.ca. There are two ways to complete your application:

1. Download the application form, fill it out on your computer and submit it through email by the deadline indicated on the application:
nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca.
2. Download the application form, fill it out by hand, scan your completed form and submit it through email by the deadline on the application:
nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca.

The application asks you for information about yourself, your community, your proposed project and the activities you want to do. It also asks you to identify the resources and money you need and how they will be used. Please use clear and concise language in your application.

If you have questions about the application, please contact us by email (nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca) or phone (867-872-6433).

3. How will my application be processed?

Here is what you can expect after you submit a grant application to the NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program:

- You will receive notification via email that we have received your application.
- The Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC) will review and evaluate each application and determine a final list of approved grant recipients.
- We will get in touch with all applicants to share the decisions made about the applications. Please keep in mind that, even if a project meets the eligibility criteria, it may not be selected due to budget constraints.

If your application is successful, we will ask for the following commitments:

- **Financial responsibility:** The funds must be used as planned. You and your sponsoring organization are responsible for providing documentation of expenditures. We will provide you with a template for financial reporting and ask that you keep receipts.
- **Reporting:** You will be asked to provide a short summary of your project, what you learned, what worked well and what could have been improved. We will also ask you to share project pictures and stories!
- **Sharing with others:** You likely learned a lot through your project that will benefit other projects and inspire other young leaders. We will work with you to share your story with others, including through opportunities such as the Annual Water Stewardship Strategy Implementation Workshop.

Once your project is underway, we would like to keep in touch and support you throughout your project. We will provide guidance as you complete your project and answer any questions along the way.

4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who can apply for funds through the NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program?

The intent of the grant program is to fund multiple smaller projects.

The NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program is open to young individuals between 18 and 30 years of age who are NWT residents. Applicants must be passionate about supporting water stewardship in the NWT and committed to leading the project with the support of a mentor.

Why do I need a sponsoring organization to administer the funds?

Grants for the NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program are administered through a Contribution Agreement. There are a number of requirements (e.g. Commercial General Liability Insurance, financial reporting) that must be met to be eligible for a Standard Contribution Agreement with the GNWT. Most individuals do not meet these requirements, but many organizations and governments do.

A sponsoring organization is any organization that is eligible to enter a Standard Contribution Agreement with the GNWT and willing to administer the funds if your application is successful. Eligible organizations often include: Indigenous and community governments and organizations, non-profit organizations, resource boards, regulatory boards, and universities and colleges. Please contact us if you are having trouble securing a sponsoring organization (nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca).

How much money can I apply for?

You can apply for a maximum of \$5,000. Projects applying for the maximum amount should include more detail about the project idea and plan, including a detailed budget. Please note that any wages or honoraria to be earned by the applicant are not eligible for funding.

I do not have a mentor yet. Can I still apply?

Applicants are encouraged to seek a mentor in the NWT willing to provide support and advise on your project throughout planning and implementation. These could be members of your community such as Elders, teachers, coaches, members of the [Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee](#), members of community organizations, or other networks. If you have not yet secured a mentor, you are still eligible to apply as long as you are open to working with us to identify a suitable mentor.

Does the NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program provide support other than funds?

In addition to funding, we aim to support successful applicants throughout their project by helping to connect youth with helpful resources such as our water partners, potential mentorship opportunities and other reference and guidance material to help make their projects successful.

How will I know if my application has been received?

You will receive a confirmation that we have received your application via email. If you do not receive this confirmation within one week, please send us an email letting us know you applied but did not receive a notification (nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca).

How do you determine which projects to fund?

The Water Strategy Aboriginal Steering Committee will review and evaluate each application and determine a final list of approved grant recipients by late September.

Priority will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate how their project actively promotes water stewardship and engages other youth in water stewardship activities.

We will get in touch with all applicants to share the decisions made about your application.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about the application process or the NWT Youth Water Stewardship and Mentorship Grant Program that are not answered here, please contact us:

Email: nwtwaterstewardship@gov.nt.ca