

OP Youth Organizer Grant



<https://tinyurl.com/opyouthorganizer>

CALLING ALL OAKLAND YOUTH! We are launching the *Oakland Promise Youth Organizer Grant*, open to any Oakland youth seeking to start or continue efforts of community service and leadership within Black or other underserved communities of color.

The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and police violence have disproportionately affected Black and Brown folks. We believe that true justice comes when a community is empowered to uplift itself.

Oakland Promise believes youth have the creativity and bold thinking to address needs in their own communities and to build the solidarity networks to initiate systemic change. Individual youth, teams of youth, and youth-led nonprofit organizations may all apply.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR THE OP YOUTH ORGANIZER GRANT!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Am I eligible? This grant is open to any youth in Oakland engaged in activism in service of the Black and/or underserved communities of color, or to youth-led nonprofit organizations or initiatives. There is no age requirement -- if you identify as a youth, we want you to apply! Teams of youth are also welcome to apply together. This opportunity is open to all, but we recognize that the Black community has been hardest hit by the concurrent effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing systemic racism. We wish to prioritize and uplift these voices.

What are potential project examples? We invite project ideas that would seek to serve your community through the lens of the following categories: Health and Wellbeing, Education, Art, or Community Healing. See some examples below:

| Category | Description | Examples |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Health & Wellbeing | Projects that promote the physical, social-emotional, and/or mental health of students. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distributing masks as COVID-19 relief• Safety kits for protests• Leading a socially-distanced nature walk or local hike |

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| Community Healing | Projects that engage students in social justice work, engage families or the broader community, or promote community safety and violence prevention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a mutual aid network to serve vulnerable communities (here is an example) Creating virtual youth-led events celebrating the diverse cultural identities of Oakland youth. Building a new, or working on an existing Community Garden |
| Education | Projects that focus on remote learning experiences, peer support groups, or other ways to support self-development and community strengthening for school-aged youth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting a virtual book club for your school or neighborhood community Hosting an educative workshop on the resiliency of POC, allyship, solidarity movements |
| Art | Projects that involve producing and collaborating on art that uplifts the Black and/or Oakland community, whether visual, music, performative, or written word. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a mural or piece of art with themes of empowerment for Black or other communities of color Creating a music video Publishing original poetry online |

How do I apply? We want this opportunity to be accessible to everyone. [Click here to fill out this short application form](#). It'll ask for your name, contact email, and a short (1-2 minutes) video or TikTok description OR 150-word description of your project idea.

Do I need to find an adult to help me? If you do not have an adult ally, don't worry! We will pair you with someone to be your OP Support Leader. They will help you think about how much your project will cost. If you do have an adult ally, you can include their contact information when submitting.

How much money will I receive? We will give out grants based on how much you need for your project, starting at \$500 and up to \$2500. This is where your adult ally can help you. When you apply, we'll ask you to estimate how much your project will cost. Just take your best guess for now -- your Adult Ally or an OP Support Leader will help you figure out the exact number later.

Is there a deadline? We encourage you to apply as soon as you're ready! We will be evaluating incoming nominations on a rolling basis in multiple rounds. To be considered in the first round, we recommend you apply before December 31st, 2020! The sooner you apply, the sooner you can receive funds to start your project!

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What happens after I apply? The Grant Selection Committee (composed of current OP staff, a board member, and an OP mentor) will review your nomination and decide whether to invite you to a short virtual interview.

- *Grant Selection Committee:* Reads applications, interviews finalists, and makes decisions
 - Ajay Cheema, OP Executive Assistant to the CEO
 - Jazz Broughton, OP College Access Coordinator
 - Devyn White, OP College Completion Advising Associate
 - Chuyi Fang, OUSD Alum and OP Board Member
 - Lynn Gitomer, OP Mentor
 - Caheri Gutierrez, OP Communications and Outreach Coordinator
 - Samra Adeni, OP Chief of Staff
- *Grant Operations Committee:* Answer questions about the grant, provide post-funding support to the grant recipient, and do outreach and marketing to spread awareness about the grant.
 - Samra Adeni - OP Chief of Staff
 - Caheri Gutierrez, OP Communications and Outreach Coordinator
 - Reve Warfield, OP Development Sr. Manager
 - Becky Chao, OP Data and Evaluation Coordinator
 - Sam Tesoro, OP Accounting Associate

Your virtual “interview” will be a 15-20 minute Zoom conversation with 2 members of the Grant Selection Committee. This is an opportunity to learn more about you and your project! You will be notified within one week of your interview whether you have been selected for an OP Youth Organizer Grant!

What happens after I’m selected? If you are selected, you and your adult ally will prepare a timeline for your project and compile your expected costs so that the Grant Operations Committee can begin the process of giving you your grant money! Your funds will be disbursed to you within one month of being selected. We expect that you will use your funds by June 30, 2021.

Will Oakland Promise help me with raising awareness about my project? Definitely! At appropriate steps in your project timeline, we would love to highlight your work on our social media channels and newsletters through pictures, video, or a presentation story. If you are selected for a grant and choose to be a part of the cohort of grant recipients, we will ask you to consent to your photo and likeness being used.