

ABOUT THE FUND



What is the Youth Empowerment Fund?

The Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) is a minimum of 3% of the San Francisco Children's Fund, approved by San Francisco voters in 2000. Currently, the YEF dedicates over \$1 million annually to supporting youth-led projects in San Francisco.

As a project of the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF), the YEF is part of a larger commitment to provide San Francisco's youth with opportunities for leadership, employment and development. For more information about DCYF, visit www.dcyf.org.

Guiding Principles

The YEF supports the role and leadership of young people by providing them with resources to define their own programming, practice leadership, and to bring sustainable community change. Through the YEF, youth from all over San Francisco have the opportunity to apply for funding towards their youth-led projects, as well as participate in grant-making, program support and evaluation. The YEF believes:

- Youth should be making decisions that affect their own lives
- Youth possess the knowledge and ability to be leaders in their communities
- Youth should have access to resources to define their own programs and opportunities



Funding Strategies

Funding for youth-led projects is provided through an evaluated process and divided into the strategies listed below. For more information about our funded programs, visit the "Grantees" page.

Strategy #1: Youth Philanthropy

Through youth-led philanthropy, the Youth Empowerment Fund provides youth with opportunities to practice leadership through peer-to-peer grant-making. Both through our Youth Empowerment Fund Advisory Board and our grantee, Youth Funding Youth Ideas, youth fund and support youth-led projects all over the city. Youth have received funding for their ideas such as youth-run gardens, self-defense classes, and youth-run conferences on important community issues. [Click here](#) to learn about the programs funded by this strategy.

Strategy #2: Youth Organizing

The YEF funds youth-led efforts to build collective power and affect concrete change in the conditions that youth face in their communities. Through this strategy, youth have the opportunity to identify issues of social injustice and build their collective capacity to win real improvements in their communities and in their lives. Our grantees cover a spectrum of San Francisco's neighborhoods and address issues such as immigrant rights, environmental justice, ethnic studies, financial/economic justice, and juvenile justice.

Strategy #3: Mini-grants

YEF Mini-Grants began in 2010 as a unique opportunity to support the innovative, small-scale and short-term projects led by San Francisco's youth leaders. Given out twice a year, these projects help to empower youth to build their leadership skills and to make positive contributions to communities throughout San Francisco. Examples of such projects include educational workshops, service projects, community outreach, teach-ins, and media projects.