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| **FY26 YEP! Grant Overview**Howard County Government has released the FY26 Youth Engagement Programming (YEP!) Grant application. Launched by County Executive Calvin Ball in 2023, the YEP! initiative creates programming opportunities for young people to strengthen connections with their families, friends, and mentors. The program’s goal is to expand access to activities that keep youth active, engaged with peers, and supported in a safe, nurturing environment.The YEP! Grant provides funding to nonprofits organizations to develop free, accessible, and supportive programming outside of traditional school hours. Programs may focus on social-emotional learning, mental health and wellness, and other enrichment activities for young people. Successful YEP! Programs occur frequently and should aim to meet the core needs of youth while promoting positive outcomes for those from diverse racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds as well as those with varying mental health or development needs across Howard County.The FY26 grant performance period will run from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.**YEP! Grant Requirements**To be considered for a YEP! grant, applicants must meet the following conditions:* **Nonprofit Status:** Be a nonprofit organization in good standing with the State of Maryland and provide a copy of the organization’s charter and bylaws.
* **Service Area:** Provide direct services to residents of Howard County, Maryland.
* **Program Frequency:** Offer programming on at least 12 separate days during the performance period. For example, year-round programs must run at least monthly, and summer programs at least weekly.
* **Program Timing:** Engage youth during out-of-school hours, such as weekends, after school, and summer.
* **Cost:** Offer programming free or at low cost. If low-cost, explain how cost barriers will be minimized for participating youth.
* **Program Type:** Use funding to create new programs or expand existing ones. If expanding, describe how the grant will increase youth engagement.
* **Performance Measurement:** Collect and report program performance data quarterly to the Office of the County Executive, including but not limited to: number of youth served, geographic reach, and age ranges.
* **Budget:** Submit a completed budget form with the application. Grant awards range from $1,000 to $50,000 with an anticipated average of $15,000 per award; partial awards are likely due to high demand.

**YEP! Application Evaluation**Applications will be scored on the following criteria:* Concept and Program Design – 25%
* Program Impact – 20%
* Program Frequency – 20%
* Areas and Populations Served – 15%
* Program Cost, Budget, and Fiscal Sustainability – 10%
* Performance Measurement – 10%

Priority will be given to proposals that:* Build peer-to-peer relationships
* Expand collaboration and team-building skills
* Include physical activities
* Develop mentorship opportunities
* Promote social-emotional learning
* Adopt community violence intervention program models

Additional consideration will be given to organizations that:* Serve multiple locations
* Provide frequent programming opportunities
* Offer free programming

**YEP! Grant Information Session**The Office of the County Executive will host a **virtual public information session** on the FY26 YEP! Grant application on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.** This session will give potential applicants an overview of the program, review application requirements, and provide an opportunity to ask questions. To register, visit: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/county-executive/youth-engagement-programming-grants>.**Application Submission**The FY26 YEP! grant application will open on **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**, and close at **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025**.All required materials, including the application and budget form, must be submitted by email to **yep@howardcountymd.gov**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.For questions, contact the Office of the County Executive at **yep@howardcountymd.gov** or call 410-313-3940. |
| **Please complete the application form below – answer all questions.** Please provide the most current and relevant information in your responses and answer all questions as fully, clearly, and succinctly as possible. (preferred font: Arial, 12 point) |
| **PART 1: Organization Details** |
| 1. **Applicant Contact Information**
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| Organization Legal Name: |  |
| Contact Name: |  |
| Contact Title: |  |
| Contact Email: |  |
| Contact Phone: |  |
| 1. **Organization Mailing Address**
 |
| Address Line 1 |  |
| Address Line 2 |  |
| City, State, Zip |  |
| 1. **Organization’s Authorized Fiscal Agent Information**
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| Fiscal Agent Name: |  |
| Fiscal Agent Title: |  |
| Fiscal Agent Email: |  |
| Fiscal Agent Phone: |  |
| 1. **Organization’s Website and Social Media**
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| Website: |  |
| Facebook: |  |
| Instagram: |  |
| Other: |  |

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| **PART 2: Program Details**  |
| 1. Please describe your proposed program(s) that will be supported by the YEP! grant. Please include details on the program elements and design, including how different activities and supports will be offered to participants. (500 words or less)
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| 1. Please describe any outreach efforts planned for specific communities and populations that your organization intends to serve (for example social media, in-person advertisement, or other efforts towards identified socioeconomic groups, racial or cultural groups, neighborhoods and geographic areas, individuals with disabilities, neurodivergent youth, etc.). (250 words or less)
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| 1. Please describe any existing or future partnerships with other organizations that you intend to leverage to support programming. (250 words or less)
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| 1. Please identify which of the following activities and programs are included in your

organization’s proposal. Check all that apply. |
|  [ ]  Arts and cultural activities [ ]  Civic engagement [ ]  Entrepreneurship [ ]  Environmental education [ ]  Internship, job placement, or career development [ ]  Leadership development [ ]  Mental health and/or social-emotional learning [ ]  Mentorship [ ]  Sports and recreation [ ]  Tutoring and academic support [ ]  Other - please describe here:  |
| 1. Please describe any planned efforts to support participants with limited mobility, including solutions to minimize transportation barriers. (250 words or less)
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| **PART 3: Program Impact**  |
| 1. How many different youth will take part in your YEP! Program(s) (count each person only once, even if they attend multiple events)?
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| 1. Where will programming be offered? Please provide specific locations.(100 words or less)
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| 1. What age group will be served by proposed programming? Check all that apply.
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|  [ ]  Elementary School Age (ages 5-10) [ ]  Middle School Age (ages 10-14) [ ]  High School Age (ages 14-18) [ ]  Young Adult (ages 18-25) |
| 1. Please describe how frequently programming will be offered (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) and when it will be offered (Spring, Summer, Fall, etc.). If you are proposing different types of programming, please specify each program. (250 words or less)
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| 1. How will your program(s) promote equitable outcomes for young people of diverse racial, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds as well as those with varying mental health or development needs across Howard County? (250 words or less)
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| 1. Will this programming also engage families, caregivers, or other community members? If so, please share how their engagement will be incorporated into programming. (250 words or less)
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| **PART 4: Performance Metrics**  |
| 1. Beyond the required YEP! performance measures, please describe specific performance measures that are unique to your program that you will be using to determine success/adjust services. Please include your data collection methods and specific assessment questions. (250 words or less)
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| 1. How will these indicators be measured and tracked over time? (250 words or less)
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| **PART 5: Program Funding and Cost**  |
| 1. Please list all other sources of funding that your organization has secured or plans to pursue to supplement YEP! programming. (250 words or less)
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| 1. Please describe whether proposed programming will be offered to participants free-of-charge or at a low cost. If programming is low-cost, please describe the cost of programs to participants in detail. (250 words or less)
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| 1. If your full funding request is not awarded, how will you scale proposed programs to fit within the approved budget? (250 words or less)
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| **Application Checklist and Submission**The following documents must be submitted as part of the YEP! Application. Applications missing any of these materials will be deemed incomplete and not considered for an award. All questions must be answered and under the word limit for an application to be considered.[ ]  YEP! Grant Application (Please submit the completed Application as a PDF)[ ]  YEP! Grant Budget Form (Please submit the completed Budget Form as an Excel file)REMINDER: all three tabs of the budget form must be complete.[ ]  Nonprofit organization’s charter and bylaws (Please submit as a PDF)[ ]  Certification of nonprofit/tax exempt status from the IRS (Please submit as a PDF)The YEP! grant application will open on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. **The application is due by 11:59PM on Wednesday, October 1, 2025**. The completed YEP! grant application and all required materials must be submitted via email to yep@howardcountymd.gov.For any questions about the YEP! grant or application process, please contact the Office of the County Executive by emailing yep@howardcountymd.gov or by calling 410-313-3940. |

 [ ]  I acknowledge and have read the YEP! Grant Requirements and this application meets the outlined grant criteria.