



## People's Climate Innovation Center Youth Programming FAQs

Do you have questions about our Young Black Climate Leaders (YBCL) and/or Young Climate Leaders of Color (YCLC) programs? Well, we have answers! Below, you will find answers to some of the most common questions we receive about each program, eligibility, and application processes. Still can't find the answer you're looking for? Contact us!

[Young Black Climate Leaders FAQs](#)

[Young Climate Leaders of Color FAQs](#)

## Young Black Climate Leaders (YBCL) FAQs

### Eligibility

#### Who should apply to the Young Black Climate Leaders Program?

To be eligible for the YBCL program, applicants must:

1. Identify as Black, African, Afro-Latinx and or part of the Afro-Indigenous diaspora.
2. Be between 18-28 years old (it is okay to turn 18 by July 1 of the application year or turn 29 during the project year)
3. Be based in any of the following places: the United States (including Alaska and Hawaii), Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

#### What themes or topics should the projects align with?

Projects should be rooted principles at the intersection of racial justice, environmental justice and/or climate justice. We focus on centering local movements and initiatives, and will uplift models of climate resistance and regenerative practices rooted in creativity and advancing transformative change that are dismantling the delusion of white supremacy and disrupting climate chaos. The YBCL Futures Fund and Futures Fund cohort celebrates Blackness and Afro-Indigeneity in all forms; we seek to support leaders who are embracing the principles of [Sankofa, Ngoza Saba](#), and Black Liberation.

#### Do I need to be affiliated with an institution or organization to apply?

Applicants are not required to be affiliated with an institution or organization to apply. Any prior or ongoing affiliations an applicant has are welcome but these affiliations will not provide any application advantage just as those with no affiliations will not be weighed at a disadvantage.

#### When does the application open?

YBCL Futures Fund applications typically open in March of the fund year. Be sure to [subscribe to our email list](#) to receive updates with exact application opening and due dates.

#### When is the application due?

The typical application period runs for six weeks from the date of the application launch. Applications opening in March will close in May/June. [Subscribe to our email list](#) to receive announcements and exact dates.

### Do I have to be a U.S resident or citizen to apply?

Applicants do not need to have U.S. citizenship to be eligible but must reside in the United States or one of the following places: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Can my project be based outside of the United States even if I live within the USA?

At this time we can only fund projects based in the United States, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Projects taking place anywhere other than the aforementioned places are ineligible for funding regardless of the applicant living in the United States.

### Do I qualify as a person of color?

YBCL applicants must identify as Black, African, Afro-Latinx and/or part of the Afro-Indigenous diaspora. Non-Black people of color are not eligible for this opportunity, but should check out our sibling program, [Young Climate Leaders of Color](#).

### Who is considered youth?

Our youth programs are open to people between the ages of 18 and 28. You must turn 18 by July 1 of the application year and it is okay to turn 29 in the cohort year.

### Can I reapply to the program?

Yes! Applicants are welcome to reapply regardless of whether or not they've received funding in a previous cycle. The exception to this is if you are a part of the current YBCL or YCLC cohort. Current YBCL cohort members are not eligible to apply as core programming for YBCL will be standard for each incoming cohort training.

### If I am a current member of the YCLC cohort and program, am I eligible to apply for YBCL?

Unfortunately, you cannot be in both programs at the same time but we highly encourage you to apply after you've completed your YCLC program.

### I am not eligible for this program, what other opportunities are there?

If you are not eligible for the YBCL program, please consider reviewing the criteria and applying for its sibling program, Young Climate Leaders of Color. More information is available [here](#). Please [subscribe to our email list](#) and follow us on social media for emerging opportunities, events and to receive Climate Innovation announcements.

## Program Details

### How much is the award and what can I use it for?

Currently, YBCL funding is awarded in four tiers: Soil, Seed, Water and Grow.

- **Soil- \$2,000-** This funding tier provides seed grants to projects in the “idea” phase. These are projects that may need support getting off the ground, proving the concept, etc. These projects may be in the beginning stages and need financial support, thought partnership, mentoring, additional resources, training, materials or skillshare to bring the idea to fruition.
- **Seed- \$6,000-** This funding tier supports projects that are beyond the idea phase but that still need support to scale and grow. Seed level funding might support the creation of a product (i.e. visual arts, presentation, event, etc.) or more intensive training to further advance their work.
- **Water- \$8,000-** This funding tier supports more established projects. These projects have demonstrated a clear proof of concept, scale, etc., and are working to expand reach and impact. Water level funding might support more intensive training and skills building, fund targeted project needs, support scaling a project to reach more people,

cover expenses such as stipends or vendors, etc.

- **Grow- \$10,000-** This funding tier supports clearly well-established projects. These projects have demonstrated a clear proof of concept, scale, etc., and have previously shown their reach and impact. Grow level funding might support targeted project needs to further deepen and expand reach and continued scalability, in addition to intensive training, coaching, and skills building.

### What costs does the program cover?

In addition to your stipend, the program covers the cost of travel and hotel for the in-person gathering held at the beginning of the program

### Will my award be taxed?

Awards are not taxed upfront, but you will have to submit a W9 to receive the fund disbursement. Please note that while funds are not taxed prior to receipt, you will receive a 1099 at the end of the year and may owe taxes based on your award amount and other income.

### When does the program term begin and end?

YBCL programming begins in July and is ongoing for 12 months. The program kicks off with a virtual orientation session and cohort meet & greet and includes an in-person gathering and monthly learning sessions.

### What obligations will I have?

YBCL cohort members should be working toward completion of a project at the intersection of racial, climate and/or environmental justice. In addition to the project, applicants must commit to completing the following:

1. Signing a scholarship agreement and providing a scholarship reflection at the conclusion of the project term. (Reflections can be in the form of videos, songs, blogs, photojournalism, zines, art, or interviews).
2. Completing all cohort surveys and evaluations.
3. Attending a minimum of six (6) virtual monthly learning calls/training (up to three (3) hours/month, with calls held approximately every other month).
4. Attending the YBCL virtual welcome/orientation session.
5. Attending an in-person gathering for 3-4 days.

6. Making a one year commitment to the program.

### **Is the in-person gathering mandatory?**

Yes, attendance at the in-person gathering is part of the commitment to the program; however, we understand life happens and will work with those unable to attend due to prior obligations on a case-by-case basis.

### **Do I have to attend all the monthly sessions?**

Attendance at all monthly learning sessions is strongly encouraged. Recognizing life happens and sometimes competing commitments, we ask that cohort members commit to attending at least six sessions and provide as much advance notice as possible if they are unable to attend.

### **How many applicants will be accepted into the fellowship?**

Cohort sizes depend on the amount of awards applied for and offered in each tier and \$40,000 is awarded in total annually. Cohorts generally will be as small as five people and no more than 10.

### **Is the fellowship accessible to people with disabilities?**

Absolutely! We make every effort to ensure all aspects of YBCL application and programming are inclusive and accessible. We encourage you to share to your comfort any accessibility needs you have so we can work to accommodate and support to ensure everyone has the best experience possible.

### **Are any COVID-19 protocols still in place?**

All in-person programming connected to YBCL includes protocols to monitor and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Generally, participants in in-person programs are required to wear a mask indoors except during meal times and complete daily rapid COVID tests. We make every effort to honor varying degrees of comfort folks may have about physical distancing and ask participants to respect others' wishes when it comes to personal contact.

### **Will I have to submit a report or make a presentation at the end of the program?**

To conclude all commitments to the program, cohort members must submit a reflection at the end of the term. Reflections can take many forms including but not limited to: written content, videos, art, zines, music, interviews, photojournalism, etc.

## Application Process

### How do I apply?

**YBCL Youth Fund Applications are open.**

- Fund applications will be accepted from February 21 to March 29, 2024 at 11:59 pm PT.
- Interviews will be held from May 3 to May 17, 2024.
- Decisions will be announced on May 31, 2024.

Please let us know if you need any special accommodations to submit an application.

[YBCL@climateinnovation.net](mailto:YBCL@climateinnovation.net)

### Why do you ask for ethnicity and gender?

We request information about ethnicity and gender identity in an effort to ensure the cohort experience is diverse and inclusive of the multitude of experiences Black-identified folks have.

### Will there be interviews?

In the application phase, we ask that all who apply accommodate an interview, if needed. Interviews are not a required part of the applications, but the review team may sometimes request them to clarify aspects of the application and better understand the applicant's project proposal. Interview requests are made after the application due date and can be up to an hour in length, although interviews have typically lasted between 30 and 45 minutes.

### What resources are available to support me through the application process?

You can visit our FAQs to common questions about eligibility, the application process, etc. If you have a question or need support that isn't covered in the FAQs, you can email us at [yblc@climateinnovation.net](mailto:yblc@climateinnovation.net) and we will do our best to support. For those with accessibility needs pertaining to the completion of the application, please contact [kalina@climateinnovation.net](mailto:kalina@climateinnovation.net) to determine alternate ways to submit.

### Will I receive feedback on my application?

Due to the number of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback to applicants who are not awarded funding.

### Contact Information

### Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please direct questions to [ybcl@climateinnovation.net](mailto:ybcl@climateinnovation.net) and expect to receive a response within 2-3 business days.