



Applying to The Young Funding Network

Thank you for your interest in applying to The Young Funding Network (YFN). In order to apply to pitch at a YFN event, you'll need to follow these simple steps:

1. Find a "champion"
2. Complete a short online application form with details of your project/organisation and a copy of your accounts
3. Create a two-minute film telling us why you should be selected and upload it to your application

What kind of charities will be considered?

YFN supports projects that aim to achieve social change: they have the potential to enable enduring positive transformation for individuals, communities, society and/or the environment over the long term. Examples of projects include those which

- address issues of inequality and disadvantage (e.g. Settle & Flamingo Chicks)
- create advocacy/campaigning/dissemination with the potential to change attitudes, behaviours, public policy or society for the better (e.g. Feedback & Reprieve)
- attempt to find a new/better solution to an underlying problem (e.g. GravityLight Foundation & ColaLife)
- focus on personal development to change the way beneficiaries act and live (e.g. Tender & Carney's Community)
- pilot solutions with the potential for expansion to support many more people (e.g. Foodcycle & Streetdoctors).

To see other examples of previously funded projects, please visit our [website](#) and if you'd like to do a quick eligibility check you can do so [here](#).

In addition:

- YFN does not support organisations which involve the promotion of any specific religion.
- Organisations do not have to be a registered charity but must be a not-for-profit with charitable aims (ie social enterprise, CIO, CIC are all fine, as long as they are not-for-profit or all the profit is reinvested).
- Organisations will normally be under five years old and small-sized where up to £1,000 would make a useful contribution either to a particular piece of work or to the organisation's core costs. Organisations should have an annual income of under £200,000 though the vast majority are much smaller than this.

Organisations already funded by YFN may re-apply after at least one year's gap. If a project is not successful at the Selection Panel it may be resubmitted, but only once in a 12 month period. Projects which have been funded by TFN (our parent charity) should not apply to YFN and projects which have received funding from YFN on multiple occasions may find it more difficult to secure further funding - if you would like to discuss your options before completing your application please contact jennie@thefundingnetwork.org.uk.

What is the role of the champion?

YFN was created as a network of peers interested in giving to social change projects, and the requirements for nominating a project reflect this. The champion must be prepared to pledge at least £30 to their project on the night, and speak in support of the project if it is selected for presentation at the funding event. Ideally, they should have attended a YFN event so they



understand how we work, though this is not a set requirement. These requirements are designed to be an indication that they are confident the project is sound and would spend the money wisely.

Champions may not be in the paid employ of a project that they support; other kinds of personal affiliation with projects, such as trustee, mentor, or volunteer relationships are entirely acceptable.

Application Process

We have a simple online application form which becomes available for each event we run. Application deadlines are usually 5-6 weeks ahead of an event but if you are unsure of the deadline please contact jennie@thefundingnetwork.org.uk to confirm.

You should ask your champion to look over your application form before submitting as it is also their responsibility to ensure the application is received complete and on time. They are also often able to add valuable insight into whether the application makes a compelling case for YFN support. YFN works on slender resources and tight timings, so it is in your interests to ensure that your application is complete, as we will not be able to chase you for missing information.

What about the film?

This is a chance to bring your application to life and to explain why you should pitch at our next event – it does not need to be a professional film, but you should demonstrate your passion and drive for the project. The video should contain nothing except the presenter(s) talking. We recommend presenters do not recite a script, but instead try to talk spontaneously and naturally. Before submitting the film, please check it for audio quality.

Selection Process

This will be explained in more detail once you have submitted your application. In brief, the selection process has two parts - all applications are initially read and scored against criteria to create a shortlist. The Selection Panel then meets to discuss the projects and final decisions are made. All projects are informed of the outcome a few days after this meeting, usually around four weeks before the event.

Typically three organisations will be selected to present at each event, with the aim of getting a good range of issues and geographies covered (unless the particular event is devoted to a specific issue or place). YFN always receives more applications than slots available and it is a competitive environment but we will endeavour to give feedback to both selected and rejected applicants.

Selected projects are required to attend a meeting with the YFN team prior to the event.