***Responses to Questions about the Grant: Youth Inclusion Initiative***

**Question: Do you have the RFP for the Youth Inclusion Grant that you can send me? When I click link on website it takes me to the eligible municipalities page.**

Answer: Starting this year, the Youth Inclusion Initiative is a grant-based program, not a Request for Proposal (RFP) Program. You can learn more about the grant at YII website ([NJDEP| Youth Inclusion Initiative | YII Grant](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/grant/)) or at Grant and Loans website ([NJDEP| Grant and Loan Programs | Youth Inclusion Initiative](https://dep.nj.gov/grantandloanprograms/youth-inclusion-initiative/)).

**Question: I am interested in learning more about the YII program and application. The link on the page**[**at this link**](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/)**is broken. See the final line of the page:**

* **For information regarding the Request for Proposal or Grant Announcement, eligible municipalities, and budgeting, click**[**Here**](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/rfp/)**.**

**Will you kindly share the RFP materials?**

**I am particularly interested in the funding request amount. That will help me understand whether our organization would have the capacity to manage this important initiative.**

Answer: Thank you for reporting that the link was broken, it has been fixed. Starting this year, the Youth Inclusion Initiative is a grant-based program, not a Request for Proposal (RFP) Program. You can learn more about the grant at YII website ([NJDEP| Youth Inclusion Initiative | YII Grant](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/grant/)) or at Grant and Loans website ([NJDEP| Grant and Loan Programs | Youth Inclusion Initiative](https://dep.nj.gov/grantandloanprograms/youth-inclusion-initiative/)). Each Community Host Organization that is selected will receive up to $100,000 dollars which includes the $5,000 dollars for the Community Project.

**Question: My name is [name redacted] and I'm a junior at [name redacted] High School. I recently saw the news about NJ DEP's new Youth Inclusion Initiative program and am very interested in participating! My [name redacted], (a sophomore at [name redacted] High School and CC'd to this email) and I started an Environmental Justice initiative called "[DeltaEarth](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/deltaearth.org__;!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!J3vqb8V-oneGTXM2K073qbUuCWxU_jg5TjgOhrLrYdsCvsqx_hyfNx5dk1vEdovqOafnUTDFVPd7yK6RIwu8DtdysiFg$)" recently, and we're both extremely passionate about environmental science and ecology.**

**With that said, I had a few questions regarding our eligibility in the YII program that we were hoping you could answer:**

* **Would I be allowed to apply to the YII grant independently, as I'm 16 years old and live in Jersey City, which is an eligible municipality?**
* **If youth are unable to apply independently, would it be possible for Audrey and I to register DeltaEarth as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and apply as a CHO, although we're both youth?**
	+ **If this is possible, would my friend and I be able to apply together under DeltaEarth, although I live in Jersey City (an eligible municipality) and Audrey lives in Princeton (an ineligible municipality)?**

Answer: DEP appreciates your interest in the Youth Inclusion Initiative. DEP does not directly hire the youth but rather partners with eligible Community Host Organizations who meet the required qualifications which are listed below.

Qualifications/Experience: The CHO should include information relevant to their qualifications and ability to perform the work required under this Grant. Any experience administering similar programs should be highlighted. The CHO should have experience in providing job training, academic enrichment, and/or workforce development initiatives. The CHOs should describe in detail the community project they plan on completing with the youth. The cohorts can be tailored to youth at any educational level from high school to college students.

To answer your specific questions:

Youth are not allowed to independently apply for the Grant as DEP only partners with Community Host Organizations who are responsible for hiring of the youth.

If you and your friend register as non-profit, you would need to meet all the other requirements of the Grant in order to be selected as a CHO. All the requirements of the grant can be read here: [yii-grant-2025.pdf](https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/grantandloanprograms/yii-grant-2025.pdf).

Youth interested in being part of the Youth Inclusion Initiative program can engage a group that would qualify as a CHO and ask the CHO to apply for this grant. CHO who are best suited for this grant include, local environmental groups, colleges and universities, neighborhood and community advocacy groups, and church and social organizations. Please also refer to the Qualifications/Experience section above to see what qualifies a CHO.

Additionally, the youth can wait to see the announcement of what CHOs were selected for this year by checking the YII website in the month of April or wait for a DEP press release announcing the selected CHOs.

CHOs are required to only hire youth who meet the following criteria:

Environmental Justice Considerations: It is required the CHO location and Youth Participation outreach areas target one of New Jersey’s overburdened communities that meets at least two of the three overburdened community criteria: 1) percentage low income, 2) minority and 3) limited English proficiency. In addition, the location must be an Urban Aid Municipality. Please see [Attachment 1](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fdep.nj.gov%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fyii%2Fattachment-1-eligible-municipalities.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) for a listing of qualified municipalities.

If a Jersey City based CHO is selected, then a youth residing in Jersey City can apply for the program through the CHO since Jersey City is an eligible municipality. However, municipalities not listed such as Princeton, the youth residing there would not be qualified to apply.

**Question: My name is [name redacted], I'm interested in applying for the Youth Inclusion Initiative, but haven't been able to find the application form online. I was wondering if you could provide me with the information so I can apply.**

Answer: If you are a Community Host Organization who is interested in applying, please learn more about the grant at YII website ([NJDEP| Youth Inclusion Initiative | YII Grant](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/grant/)) or at Grant and Loans website ([NJDEP| Grant and Loan Programs | Youth Inclusion Initiative](https://dep.nj.gov/grantandloanprograms/youth-inclusion-initiative/)) to apply.

If you are a youth, please note DEP does not directly hire the youth however, DEP partners with Community Host Organizations (CHO). Please check the YII website in the month of April or wait for a DEP press release announcing the selected CHOs. If a CHO is selected in the municipality you reside in, please contact the CHO directly to apply.

**Question: In looking at the app I didn't see the dates for the 6 wk program. If I overlooked it please direct me to it, if you will.**

Answer: The program will run from July 7, 2025, to August 15, 2025. A proposed schedule for the summer can be found on the last page of document [yii-grant-2025.pdf](https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/grantandloanprograms/yii-grant-2025.pdf).

**Question: I am very interested in attending the DEP's Youth Inclusion Initiative webinar on the 30th. However, I am unable to find a sign-up link. Could you forward it to me, please?**

Answer: The link to sign up for the webinar can be found under Application Workshop on [NJDEP| Youth Inclusion Initiative | YII Grant](https://dep.nj.gov/yii/grant/) website.