



New Orleans

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND



Information Session - July 22, 2026
Meeting will begin at 11:35 AM





MEET THE YCAF TEAM



MESHAWN SIDDIQ

Director of Health and Wellbeing
including the Office of Youth and
Families at New Orleans Health and
Human Services



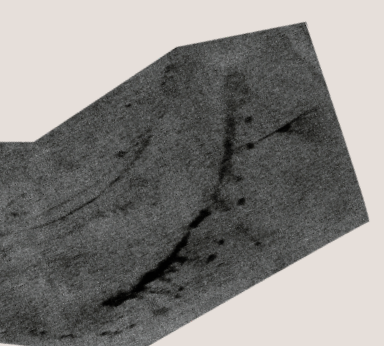
MEREDITH MCINTURFF

Manager of Public Health
Emergencies & Environmental
Health Unit at New Orleans Health
and Human Services



SUMMER HUYNH

Student intern at New Orleans
Health and Human Services



WHAT IS THE YOUTH ACTION CLIMATE FUND???



Awarded to the City of New Orleans from Bloomberg Philanthropies to disperse to youth-led climate projects to be completed by April



Teams of at least 2 youth leaders ages 15–24 years create their own project plans with guided assistance from NOHHS and 501(c)3 of choice, and apply to receive a grant of \$1000–\$5000 to bring project to life





PROJECT OVERVIEW



City Climate Action Plan: Net Zero by 2050

Projects must align with New Orleans' Climate Action plan, resiliency goals, and prioritize diverse, community driven goals with long term implementation plans.

1) Economy

- Promote sustainable business practices & jobs
- Make climate action data available for analysis and action

3) Transportation

- Diversify travel choices to increase non-auto trips
- Increase share of zero-emission vehicles on roads

2) Adaptation

- Build additional green infrastructure
- Increase resilience of our energy and water infrastructure

4) Energy

- Clean our grid
- Generate more clean energy locally
- Use less energy in our buildings

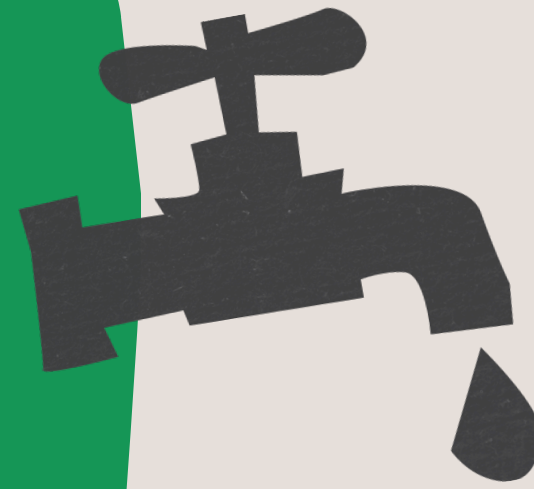
5) Waste

- Improve recycling rates through education & infrastructure



All projects require sponsorship
from a 501(c)3 or fiscal
organization to receive the funds if
chosen

Always keep all receipts to turn in



FINDING A 501(C)3 / FISCAL



Examples of potential sponsors:
schools, museums, community
organizations, associations,
religious organizations, other
recognized organizations



ELIGIBLE GRANTS

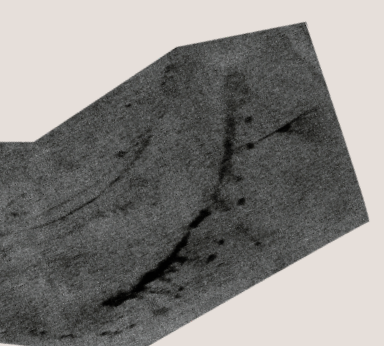
- Project supplies and materials (equipment, tools, art supplies, tech)
- Costs for community events, workshops, or educational sessions (venue rental, printing, refreshments)
- Necessary permits for project implementation
- Reasonable ground travel expenses for youth participants
- Promotional materials (photography, videography, editorial support)
- Training & mentorship fees for youth workshops
- Project sponsorship costs (up to 15% of microgrant value)
- Funds for youth participation (bus fare, food per diems, gift cards)
- Grants are not to be used as stipends or salaries



INELIGIBLE GRANTS

- Services covered by existing city initiatives
- Rent or utilities, unless specified previously
- Nonprofit/NGO incorporation fees
- Speaker honorariums and speaker fees
- Scholarships
- Direct support to individuals or families
- Partisan political organizations
- Political campaigns, fundraisers, or projects
- Capital campaigns, endowments, or endowed chairs
- Events or fundraisers not related to youth climate action
- Over \$1000 on any one individual, especially adults





COMMON MISTAKES IN GRANT APPLICATIONS



- Not clearly aligned to City's Climate Action Plan
- Not youth led as shown through creation of application
- Projects were not new or innovative
- Not doable by deadline
- Not a clearly outlined plan
- Goals, budget, and timeline not aligned





PROJECT TIMELINE

Participants will be developing project from July 20–September 10. If selected, project timelines will move forward past November. From November until April, teams will have monthly check ins to verify progress. Projects must be completed by April 15, 2027.

July 20

September 10

October 7

November 6

Mid–April

App. Open

App. Closes

Notification of
Awards

Grants Dispersed

Project Wrap
Up



Monthly reports:

- Due the first week of each month from November to April
- Will be used to guide city's lead support and conversations
- Only 1 youth lead needs to fill it out



ONCE YOU'RE SELECTED...



Check ins:

- Will occur periodically with your city lead (Meshawn Siddiq/Meredith McInturff)
- Check in discussions can revolve around planning, progress, obstacles, wins, and impacts





PAST PROJECTS



BEE BENEFICIAL

Sponsored by Grow Dat Youth Farm – Building native bee habitats & training community members on pollinator care

BRIDGING THE INTERGENERATIONAL GAP

Sponsored by Illuminating the Youth – Connecting youth and seniors through shared gardening & climate dialogue

DIVERSITY IN BLOOM

Sponsored by Louisiana Green Corps – Promoting resilience through gardening workshops and seed sharing

SUSTAINABLE DINING

Sponsored by YMCA of Greater New Orleans – Creating a guide for eco-friendly packaging in local restaurants

JUNIOR KOATS4KIDS KREWE

Sponsored by Koats4Kids – Upcycling coats and showcasing sustainable fashion through workshops

IRIS IMPACT: NOLA BLOOMING

Sponsored by New Harmony High School – Planting Louisiana irises and producing a youth-led documentary

KEEP LOYOLA BEAUTIFUL

Sponsored by Loyola Students for Environmental Action – Revitalizing a native vertical garden and raising awareness of urban biodiversity

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CLIMATE CONTROL

Sponsored by Keyon Fitness & Performing Arts – Using performance and fitness to explore climate justice

MUSIC FROM WASTE

Sponsored by Make Music NOLA – Repairing discarded instruments and hosting concert featuring youth created recycled art

PAST PROJECTS

SLOW FASHION

Sponsored by ricRACK – Educating teens on sustainable garment-making through an eight week summer program

LOWERING FOOD WASTE THROUGH GARDENING

Sponsored by UNO Garden Club – Composting dorm food waste for campus gardens

SUSTAINABOLD

Sponsored by Puentes New Orleans – Hosting recycled crafting days, bilingual climate education, and a youth climate magazine/blog

WATER WISE YOUTH

Sponsored by Water Wise Gulf South – Creating educational games for local festivals focused on waste reduction and green infrastructure

NEW ORLEANS UNHOUSED RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Sponsored by Grace at the Greenlight – Reducing plastic waste and promoting reusable bottles among unhoused communities

UNCHARTED WATERS

Sponsored by Trinity City Arts – Hosting “read-and-color-along” events to build youth water literacy

YOUTH FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

Sponsored by Reaping the Harvest – Expanding recycling infrastructure and educating the community through digital content

2ND LINE CLEAN UP

Sponsored by Train Up a Child NOLA – Placing recycling bins along second line routes and leading environmental workshops



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



Final workshop with teen interns and the crud buddies

Ogden Museum of Southern Art Circular Economy and Waste Reduction

Through a series of workshops and a community build day, local artists Milagros Collective taught Ogden teen interns and community members how to recycle paper and discarded waste found in the Mississippi River by making “crud buddies.” The buddies were shown in the Ogden Museum for a collaborative art installation. The exhibition aimed to ignite a conversation about climate change and the challenges facing the City of New Orleans.

Favorite part: Helping younger visitors to make their own crud buddies during the community build day. Most of them were surprised to learn they were made from recycled paper and glue.

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH YOUR PROJECT

Don't be overwhelmed by all this information, we are here to help!

Here are some tips on how to begin creating your project:



FIND YOUTH TEAM

Recruit a team of at least 3 youth members that can be leaders in your project



REACH OUT TO SPONSOR

Research different fiscal sponsors that relate to your project ideas and coordinate with them to become fiscal sponsors



BRAINSTORM IDEAS

Think about what topics on the city's Climate Action Plan you are most interested in, and begin brainstorming possible solutions





IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

Questions? Email oyf@nola.gov



Register for office hours on August 20th
from 3:30–4:30 PM for last minute
questions before application submissions

