



## YOUNG CLIMATE LEADERS OF COLOR FAQs

### ELIGIBILITY

#### Who should apply to the Young Climate Leaders of Color Program?

To be eligible for the YCLC program, applicants must:

- Identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Person of Color.
- 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).
- 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.
- Commit to attending a virtual orientation session and in-person gathering.
- Commit to attending a minimum of 12 monthly learning calls/trainings (up to 3 hours/month).
- Be willing/able to make a one-year commitment.

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

YCLC aims to build a national network of young leaders of color who are learning, growing, and advancing climate justice work in their own communities. The project seeks to immerse youth in climate justice, arts, story-based advocacy, cultural strategy, targeted direct action, community organizing, transformative change, ecological principles, and leadership development. We recognize there are many diverse entry points for catalyzing change within our movement ecosystem and we value all approaches to change, from music and the arts, the power of culture, to community organizing and radical policy advocacy, restorative and healing connections to the Earth, liberation, and many others.

#### 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 do applications open?

YCLC applications typically open in late summer of the fund year. Be sure to [subscribe to our email list](#) to receive updates with exact application openings and due dates. The application for the 2024 cohort opens on August 8, 2023.

## When is the application due?

The typical application period runs for six weeks from the date of the application launch. Applications opening in August will close in late September. Our 2024 YCLC application period is from August 8–September 22, 2023. Please subscribe to our email list to receive announcements and exact dates for future application cycles.

## 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?

We ask that you self-identify in the online application. The Young Climate Leaders of Color program is specifically designed to support Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

## 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.

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

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

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

If you are not eligible for the YCLC program, please consider reviewing criteria and applying for its sibling program, [Young Black Climate Leaders](#) and subscribe to our mailing list to learn about future opportunities.

# PROGRAM DETAILS

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

YCLC cohort members receive a \$5,000 stipend. These funds will support the cohort members for their time and may be used for direct implementation of a project if they choose.

## Will my stipend 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 YCLC term begin and end?

YCLC programming begins in January following the application cycle; 2023 applications open August 8 and close September 22. The cohort will begin with a virtual orientation in January 2024 and be ongoing for 12 months.

## What obligations will I have?

YCLC 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 nine (9) virtual monthly learning calls/training (up to three (3) hours/month, with calls held approximately every other month).
4. Attending the YCLC virtual welcome/orientation session.
5. Attending an in-person gathering for 2-3 days.
6. Making a one year commitment.

## 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 monthly sessions is a requirement and part of the commitment to the program. However, we understand that life happens and ask that cohort members try to miss no more than three (3) sessions and communicate with us with as much advance notice as possible if you will need to miss a session.

## How many applicants will be accepted into the program?

Each YCLC cohort accepts 40 people.

## Is the program accessible to people with disabilities?

Absolutely! We make every effort to ensure all aspects of the YCLC 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.

## What are the YCLC COVID-19 protocols?

All in-person programming connected to YCLC 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 to the YCLC program?

The next YCLC application opens August 8, 2023. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter and follow our social media channels to stay updated on the process!

## 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 that young leaders of color have.

## Will there be interviews?

In the application phase, we ask that all who apply have flexibility to 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 [yclc@climateinnovation.net](mailto:yclc@climateinnovation.net) and we will do our best to support. For those with accessibility needs pertaining to 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 [yclc@climateinnovation.net](mailto:yclc@climateinnovation.net) and expect to receive a response within 2 business days.