

Starting a Youth Philanthropy Program: Resource Guide

“[How to Start at Youth Philanthropy Program.](#)” This blog provides those who aspire to start a youth philanthropy program with a timeline and questions to consider along the journey to creating a democratic, diverse, inclusive, and equitable program.

“[Where in the World of Youth Philanthropy Do I Get Started?](#)” Co-authored by Grantcraft and YPC, this guide was created to help navigate YouthGiving.org to build and strengthen your youth philanthropy efforts and have a more active role in the youth giving movement.

“[How Do I Start a Youth Grantmaking Program in My Community.](#)” Per this blog, the first and most important step in starting a youth grant-making program is to ask as many questions about your community as possible.

“[How Do I Start a Youth Grantmaking Program to Ensure Youth Voice? What Are the Benefits of Doing so as a Funder?](#)”

1. Listen to young people’s ideas and interests
2. Give young people the opportunity to lead
3. Embrace partnerships
4. Value feedback before, during, and after the program from those participating
5. Reach young people where they are

“[Igniting the Spark: Creating Effective Next Generation Boards.](#)” This Passages Issue Brief introduces an increasingly popular method for preparing the next generation for philanthropic service: the next generation or junior board. It specifically is geared toward Family Foundations. There is also a series of case studies including community foundation examples available by emailing [Katherine Scott](#).

Other useful organizations within the youth philanthropy field:

[YouthGiving.org](#) – This website is a platform of the Foundation Center, which aims to inspire, connect, and inform youth grantmaking. There are 38 youth philanthropy programs in Massachusetts, which serve varying age groups and are based at academic institutions, community foundations, summer camps, and after-school community programs.

[Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana](#) is a state-wide network providing educational training, youth philanthropy research and philanthropic resources. YPII and Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy host a [free webinars](#) designed to support next-gen leadership and giving.

National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP)- [Generations Together: A curriculum for Engaging Youth in Family Philanthropy.](#)

NCFP also offers a [peer network](#) for engaging the next generation. This network is useful for sharing resources, tools, and strategies for inspiring and engaging new generations of your family.

[Teen Philanthropy Café](#) is a series of readers created in partnership with Exponent Philanthropy to introduce teens to philanthropy, and inspire them toward giving with impact. These guides are helpful to facilitate peer discussions.

[The Next Gen Fellows Program](#) is a 6-month training fellowship, through Exponent Philanthropy, designed for deep learning and peer networking to prepare the next generation for leadership roles.

[21/64](#) specializes in serving families with funds, foundations or other family enterprises as well as wealth and philanthropy advisors—so that multiple generations can work, give and serve together more effectively.

Accounting and policy resources:

Be sure to consult your accountant and, if necessary, your legal team before starting your youth philanthropy program. You'll want to ensure that your budget properly reflects your new program and covers any liability concerns.

For Family Foundations, we recommend that you consult with the National Center for Family Philanthropy. NCFP can provide foundations with sample policy for starting a junior board or other Next Gen programming. Feel free to contact Katherine Scott at Katherine@ncfp.org.

For Community Foundations, we recommend that you consult with [Bozeman Area Community Foundation](#) and/or [Community Foundation of Noble County](#).

Sample policy language:

- For policies around youth protection, abuse prevention, and assumption of risk, contact Bridget Wilkinson at bridget@bozemanfoundation.org.
- For sample documents on liability, release forms, membership contracts, or examples of responsibility guidelines, Margarita White of the Community Foundation of Noble County has agreed to be a resource (margarita@cfnoble.org).
- You can also contact Sheryl Seller to receive these samples from either Bozeman Area Community Foundation or Community Foundation of Noble County (sheryl89@brandeis.edu)