

Re:Action4Inclusion
Community Action Projects Guidelines

Re:Action4Inclusion: Youth Creating Change

Re:Action4Inclusion (R4I) is an Ontario-based, youth-led social justice movement that aims to empower youth to take action individually and collectively to make their schools and communities more inclusive spaces for youth with intellectual disabilities. Led by a Provincial Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), this movement seeks to change the Canadian narrative of disability and reframe the meaning of community to create spaces where everyone is valued and belongs. R4I encourages youth from across Ontario to take a stand and dispel negative stereotypes about people who have an intellectual disability.

R4I is one of the many advocacy initiatives supported by Community Living Ontario (CLO), a non-profit provincial association that advocates with people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Over the past 17 years, R4I has worked with over 50,000 youth through various opportunities for youth to spark conversations and create more inclusive communities for people of all abilities.

Calling All Changemakers

Do you have an idea to make a difference?

The Community Action Projects (CAP) initiative offers youth (ages 14-29) a pathway from education to action by encouraging them to play a role in shifting attitudes within their schools and communities. These projects provide the space for youth to creatively address inclusion, channel their passions, and develop a local advocacy project that feeds into the province-wide Re:Action4Inclusion youth movement.

Community Living Ontario

1 Valleybrook Drive, Suite 201
Toronto, ON M3B 2S7

Tel: 416-447-4348 Toll Free: 1-800-278-8025 Fax: 416-447-8974
Email: info@communitylivingontario.ca

What Should Our Project Achieve?

Community Action Projects should accomplish one or more of the following:

1. Create more inclusive spaces for youth with intellectual disabilities within your school and/or community.
2. Challenge misconceptions and change the narrative around disability to foster understanding.
3. Promote a stronger sense of community and belonging for youth of all abilities.
4. Raise awareness about the importance of authentic inclusion of individuals with an intellectual disability.
5. Provide a safe platform for youth with disabilities to discuss the challenges and inequities they face daily.
6. Rally other youth to take action against inequality and discrimination to build a more inclusive society for people with disabilities.

Project Criteria

To be eligible for this program, your project must:

1. Be led by at least 5 youth (ages 14-29). **At least 2 youth should identify as having an intellectual disability.**
2. Raise awareness and promote the authentic inclusion of youth with intellectual disabilities (see the section above).
3. Be connected to a secondary school, youth-serving organization, post-secondary association or club, or Community Living member organization within Ontario.
4. Identify at least 1 adult ally who will act as a support person for the project.
5. Identify one youth in the group to be the Project Lead.

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Role Descriptions

Project Lead:

1. Be a youth (ages 14-29).
2. Be the liaison between the project group and Community Living Ontario.
3. Track the project's progress and provide ongoing updates to the Youth Coordinator at Community Living Ontario.
4. Attend (monthly) meetings with the Youth Coordinator and Youth Advisory Committee to discuss project updates and participate in focus group reviews.

Adult Ally:

1. Must be age 21 or older and a resident of the local area (e.g., teacher, staff member, community leader, etc.).
2. Cannot be a student or one of the youth members leading the project.
3. Offers support to the youth involved in the Community Action Project.
4. Will be available to assist the group with project logistics (i.e. booking event spaces, guest speakers, equipment, etc.).
5. Will be available to advise the group on smaller day-to-day tasks.
6. Assist with the management and distribution of the project funds.

How to Apply

Applicants must develop a project proposal that aligns with the guidelines outlined above.

The online application form can be found [here](#), or visit reaction4inclusion.com for a printable version. Applications must also include a completed budget (see below).

Applications are due on Friday, May 22nd, 2026, at 11:59 pm.

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Community Action Projects Receive Funding!

Selected projects will receive a \$2,500 grant to assist with the implementation of project activities. **Each project group will be responsible for submitting a budget** that explains how they plan to spend the project funds. A budget template can be found at reaction4inclusion.com.

Community Action Project funds can be used for the following:

- Space rental
- Transportation to and from project activities for youth leaders
- Equipment (rental costs only)
- Promotional materials
- Events, workshops, and activities
- Guest speakers
- Project supplies
- Translation or interpretation services
- Honorariums and prizes

What will NOT be covered:

- Activities outside of Ontario
- Purchase of equipment (e.g., computers, tablets, speakers, cell phones, etc.) or personal mobility devices
- Renovations to a room or building (e.g., building ramps, installing lifts, etc.)
- Fundraising campaigns
- Expenses unrelated to the project

How Will Community Action Projects Impact Youth?

Through the Community Action Projects, we aim to:

1. Motivate young leaders to change the way society views and treats youth who have an intellectual disability.
2. Support youth as they move from 'Idea Generators' to 'Change Makers'.
3. Encourage youth to play active leadership roles in their schools and communities.

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What Happens If We're Selected?

Your application will be reviewed by Community Living Ontario's Selection Committee. We will contact all applicants regarding the results of their application. If your application is approved, you will be notified via email by Friday, June 12th, 2026. Your group will be required to submit a signed contract and supporting documentation to confirm your participation in the Community Action Projects program.

Each group will participate in a leadership training day hosted by CLO staff and the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The purpose of the training is to help your group further develop the goals, implementation plans, and evaluation strategies for your project. Training days will occur between July – September 2025. Your group's training day will be scheduled based on the availability of your group members and adult ally.

The Community Action Projects will run from September 1st, 2026, to January 31st, 2027. Groups will receive mentorship from CLO's Youth Coordinator and the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) throughout the duration of the project. Project groups will be expected to follow specific project guidelines (outlined by CLO) to ensure impactful outcomes.

Don't Miss this Opportunity!

The deadline to submit the [project application](#) is Friday, May 22nd, 2026, at 11:59 pm.

If you fill out the printable application, please scan and email it to llennard@communitylivingontario.ca by the deadline.

For more information, please contact:

Leshona Lennard, Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator

Email: llennard@communitylivingontario.ca

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