



NIAGARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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Niagara County Youth Bureau **Niagara County Youth Bureau Application for 2026-2027 Funding**

The Niagara County Youth Bureau is pleased to open the 2026-2027 Youth Bureau application process to support youth programs for Niagara County youth age 0-18 that provide services, opportunities and supports designed to improve youth and community outcomes in the Life Areas outlined by the Touchstones framework.

Developed by the New York State Council on Children and Families, the Touchstones framework is organized by six Life Areas: Economic Security; Physical and Emotional Health; Education; Citizenship; Family; and Community. The goals and objectives are related to each other and call for comprehensive strategies to address any single aspect of children and family well-being.

For 2026-27, the Niagara County Youth Bureau will administer:
Youth Development Program (YDP) 0-21yr old
Runaway & Homeless Shelter (RHYA)
Youth Sports and Education (YSEF) – 6yr old -17yr old.
TBD – Youth Team Sports (YTS)

Niagara County Youth Bureau grants are awarded to non-profit organizations and Niagara County municipalities/agencies that will operate to meet goals identified in the Touchstone Life Areas.

Eligible Grantees: The following organizations are eligible to apply for funding through this RFP: not-for-profit including, but not limited to, secular and faith-based, organizations operating in Niagara County; Niagara County municipalities; and partnerships or consortia consisting of the foregoing. Proposers that have never received funding through the Niagara County Youth Bureau are encouraged to apply for funding in this application process.

Programming and/or services must be provided **within Niagara County**, with the exception of occasional trips outside of the County, with prior approval granted by the Niagara County Youth Bureau.

Projected Timetable of Key Events

The Niagara County Youth Bureau Application Review Process.

- 2026-27 Application - Released 5/11/2026
- Application to be submitted to the Youth Bureau by August 7
- September-October
 - Official Award/Allocation Letters
- November- December
 - Contracting Procedure
 - All funding is reimbursed – no “advance” payments are conducted.

Key Components:

- **Comprehensive Site Visit (All Agencies):**
 - Visit scheduled by Director and/or Youth Advisory Board member– completion of Comprehensive Site Visit Form
- **New and Existing Program Presentation** – first time funded programs present to Youth Advisory Board. Programs that have not presented in last 3 years will be asked to present.
- **Documents:**
 - Annual Reporting
- **OCFS / Fiscal Report Claiming Process**