

IMPORTANT YIP PROJECT DATES			
YIP Application Opens September 14, 2026 <i>No Idea is Too Big or Too Small</i>	YIP Application Due November 3, 2026 By 3:30	YIP Project Showcase November 5, 2025 Share Your Idea	Project Complete September 1, 2027 Turn in final report



GUIDELINES

YIP: Youth Inspired Philanthropy Project

What is this? The Youth Inspired Philanthropy Project Program (YIP) is an exciting opportunity for youth and young adults to use their creativity, compassion, and love of their community to make a difference. We want people from 3rd grade through 12th grade to ask themselves this question:

How can I make a difference in my community?

Then, they can submit their best ideas to help change the world, right here in their own backyards. Projects that are selected will receive up to \$1000 to complete their proposal.

What do you mean, “Make a difference”?

We are looking for projects that help our community grow and change for the better and are philanthropic in nature.

Philanthropy is a big word. It means “giving your time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of all”. Here are some questions to help you think about ways to make things better in your community:

- What do I care about?
- How can my caring help others?
- What in my community needs fixing?
- What would make my community a better place?

You might have an idea you have been thinking about for a while. Or maybe something new will inspire you. You could save something, create something, or change something. As long as it benefits others, it would be a perfect YIP project.

Tell us about your best idea for making a difference! We're looking for ideas that:

- Have a positive impact on the community
- Can be completed by September 1st
- Directly benefits Keith County, Nebraska
- Is charitable (which means it serves the public interest or common good)
- Involves youth in the project work.

Do I have to do this by myself?

Not unless you want to! You can do a project on your own, with friends, or as part of a class, club, or group. The YIP Program has three grade-based categories, so one will work for you.

- 3rd – 5th Grades
- 6th – 8th Grades
- 9th – 12th Grades

******The age group is determined by the grade of the oldest person participating.

How do I complete an application?

There are things that **MUST** be turned in with your application, and there are additional pieces that may help sell your idea to the selection committee by getting them excited about what you are planning to do. Sharing the details of what you are planning and how it will change Keith County will make it more likely that you will be selected.

Required Application Materials

- **Project Application:** All sections must be completed, including a media release for EACH student in your group.
- **Project Display:** YIP will supply a poster board for you to use to imagine your project. Add pictures, charts, impact statements, statistics, what your results will be – anything that brings your project to life.

When does the application period open?

The application for the YIP Project Program is available **September 14, 2026**. Applications and information can be found on the [keithcountyfoundation.org](https://www.keithcountyfoundation.org) website. Go to <https://www.keithcountyfoundation.org/youth-philanthropy> or scan the QR code at right.



Where and when do I turn in my project application and display? When is it reviewed?

November 3, Tuesday, Application Deadline and Project Drop Off

Complete an Online or Email Application by 3:30 pm

Complete the online application by 3:30 pm via the [keithcountyfoundation.org](https://www.keithcountyfoundation.org) website or email it to info@keithcountyfoundation.org (use "Yip Application" for the subject line.)

Drop off your Project Display Board between 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

If you didn't apply digitally, you may print your application, budget, and media releases and drop them off with your display board on **November 3rd at the Kathleen Lute Library**.

November 5, Thursday: YIP Project Showcase at the Kathleen Lute Public Library

YIP Showcase 5:30 - 6:30 pm

We invite your family and friends to hear you speak about your project and share your display board.

Every project must be presented by at least one person who attends the Showcase, but we encourage all project group members to attend. The Selection Committee will interview your team and judge the projects during your presentation.

The committee will announce which projects were selected after the presentations.

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a way I can get help with my application?

You can call or email us with any questions about the guidelines or process. Contact information is at the end of this document.

The **YIP Project Program** offers community mentors who will work with you on your ideas, application, budget, and displays. They are there for you!

Why should I submit a video, poster, or other display items?

Visual aids such as videos, posters, or displays help the Selection Committee understand and get excited about your project. Visuals can sell your idea and tell us why it should be selected for funding. Projects that include more information and visual aids with their application submissions are more likely to be selected to move forward.

What if I don't have access to video equipment?

Videos are not required; it is just an idea for you to consider that may help you better tell your story. Phones or computers often have design tools like PowerPoint or Canva that can help make videos, photos, or displays, and many cameras take great photos and videos that you can edit.

Does my project have to be approved by the group or organization that it benefits?

YES! All projects that directly impact a club, group, or organization MUST have approval from those organizations affected by the project for your application to be considered for the program. For example, if you are thinking about baking cookies for the Senior Center, talk with them first. Not having permission should your project be selected will disqualify your project.

Can my project be a fundraising event?

Yes! Fundraising is part of philanthropy, and it helps to make a lot of projects a reality. Just because the project award for YIP is capped at \$1,000, it doesn't mean you can't raise more to expand your idea.

Who decides which projects receive funding?

The YIP Project Program has a Selection Committee that will be reviewing all applications.

What happens if my idea is funded?

The committee will schedule a time to meet with you and your mentor at the Kathleen Lute Public Library. Half of the money you requested to complete your project will be given to you at that time. The second payment will be distributed when your project is complete. Each project must have at least one representative present. Large groups should select 2-4 people to attend and represent them. It is also important that a parent, mentor, or other adult attends with you. We will review your project timeline and offer support, assistance, and advice as you need it. We will check in with you regularly and will work with the YIP Committee on the financial pieces of your project.

Do I report back to the YIP Committee after my project is over?

You will provide updates to the YIP Committee on your project's progress. When your project is completed, you will provide a final report using the form on the website. At that time, we will ask you to answer a few questions about your project, the process, and to share some photos. (Be sure to take some as you work on your project!)

How do we celebrate?

We will wrap up the year with a final YIP Project Celebration in September. You will get to share your success and talk about the impact you had. We will share more details at the YIP Kickoff event.

What is the timeline for completing my project?

After the YIP Showcase on November 5, 2026, you have until **September 1, 2027**, to complete your project.

Contact Information for the Youth Inspired Philanthropy Project:

YIP Project, PO Box 104 Ogallala, NE 69153, or
Email us at: info@keithcountyfoundation.org with "YIP" In the subject line
so your questions can be forwarded to Laura, Kayla or Barb. Thank you!

Project Chairs

Laura Kemp 308-464-0273 | Barb Jeffres 308-289-5392 | Kayla Schmittler 308-289-2226
Liaison for KCFF: Karen Lundquist (612) 644-7409