

# What's Your Big Idea?!

Application Guidance.



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## What's this about?

What's Your Big Idea?! is a small grants fund for young people in Scotland supported by the Audrey Milan Fund.

Young people can apply for a small amount of funding to help get an exciting idea off the ground. They can apply for help starting a new project with your youth group; use it for a cool idea they've been thinking about to make more money; develop a new skill, like making jewellery, starting a podcast or learning to cook; or something completely different that will blow our minds!

We're encouraging young people to take creative risks with some financial support they might not normally get.

## Who can apply?

**Young people living in Scotland, aged 12-25 are eligible to apply through a Youth Scotland member group.** Payments will be made to young people via their youth groups, so as not to exclude anyone from applying<sup>1</sup> for a small grant. Young people are welcome to apply with individual or group ideas.

## How much can people apply for?

We're offering initial grants of up to £50 per application. If applicants tell us how it went with their £50 and what they'd do with more, we will probably give them just that. Tell us how it went, and we could top up the application with another £150.

## How do people apply?

We want applications to be easy and fun - would you prefer to send us a short video? Send a voice message? Drop us an email? Maybe just a short write up of an idea? We've got you covered - securely drop us an application on [this webpage](#) All applications will be handled securely according to Data Protection and GDPR legislation as set out by Youth Scotland's Privacy Policy: [www.youthscotland.org.uk/privacy](http://www.youthscotland.org.uk/privacy)

## What information do you need?

So we can process applications with a minimum of back-and-forth, we are asking for applications to include the following:



- Young person(s) full names.
- Young person(s) age.
- Name/postcode of youth group.
- Name and contact details of youth worker (e.g. email or phone number)
- Their Big Idea!

The short application form can be text, video, audio, photos or whatever! Add your info to the PDF and [upload it to this webpage](#) and we'll get back to you, usually within 28 days – how easy is that?

## What are the deadlines?

To help us manage applications, they are reviewed and awarded in an ongoing basis, the next deadline is:

- **31/03/2024**

Don't worry if you miss one – add your application to the next dates. We aim to respond to each application within 28 days in most cases. If you have not heard in that time, please drop us a line at [youridea@youthscotland.org.uk](mailto:youridea@youthscotland.org.uk)

## What won't you fund?

This is a fund specifically to support young people get their ideas into reality and as such are unable to fund staffing costs, running costs or capacity building.

## I have a question...

No problem, we would really like to help! To help us to help you, we ask that you use the email address [youridea@youthscotland.org.uk](mailto:youridea@youthscotland.org.uk) in the first instance.

## Who is organising this and who was Audrey Milan?

Audrey Milan was Chief Executive of Youth Scotland, a youth worker, and many more things. Audrey sadly passed away in 2019 and the Audrey Milan Memorial Fund has been created to honour Audrey Milan's work and the lasting impression she made on many people in the course of her life.

The fund is operated by former friends and colleagues whose lives were touched by Audrey and is administered by Youth Scotland.

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“When I was younger I had met Audrey through Youth Clubs Scotland. She took a real interest in me, and gave me so much encouragement to follow my dreams. She always believed that young people, wherever their background should be offered as many opportunities as possible, believing that you truly learn by doing and that adults should encourage young people’s ideas wherever possible. This fund, and those of us involved in developing it in her name, are keen to keep her philosophy alive and hope that lots of people take the opportunity to put their ideas and ambitions into action.

I think this fund is a chance for young people to be creative, ambitious or just to get basic help with things that they need. I am really looking forward to hearing people’s ideas and helping them to become a reality by awarding some financial support where we can!”

- Michael

“Going back to when I was a young person and meeting Audrey Milan for the first time, I remember a sense of believing in myself! Audrey helped me realise that I did have potential, pointing out what I had already achieved and how much more I could still achieve with some help to access more opportunities! Audrey had an amazing skill of helping people to realise their potential and was a great believer in people. Finding ways for young people to gain the opportunities to excel themselves and valuing everyone’s contributions to making something happen.”

- Mandy

“Audrey Milan believed in empowering children and young people to be decision makers in their own lives and leaders in their communities. She developed Senior Member Involvement Training in the 1970s to support young people to become leaders in their youth clubs and groups. Many adults currently involved in working with young people were participants in the SMIT programme. As a trainee youth worker, I was extremely fortunate to have Audrey as my line manager and even more fortunate to have her as a friend and mentor for the rest of her life. She challenged, motivated and inspired me as a worker and gave me support to develop my confidence, skills, values and principles as a Chief Executive. Throughout her life Audrey supported young people to develop their Big Idea which is why we have set up this fund in the memory.”

- Carol

<sup>1</sup> In our experience, people are not always comfortable supplying banking details and many young people do not or cannot access a bank account. To ensure that we are as inclusive as possible, we will ask Youth Scotland youth groups to provide their banking details instead and handle the local distribution of the grants. We require groups to be members as part of our governance policy on payments.

