

A close-up photograph of a blueberry branch with green leaves and clusters of ripe blueberries. A hand is visible on the right side, holding a leaf.

Youth Food Fund

2024 Youth Food Fund Report



Nourish Youth Food Fund

The Nourish Youth Food Fund was a one-time funding opportunity aimed at supporting youth leadership in food access & literacy initiatives across Nova Scotia.

The Nourish Youth Food Fund was developed with one-time funding from Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage and provided support for:

- Youth-Led & Youth-Serving Groups in Nova Scotia. This included youth-led groups and/or community groups and organizations that serve youth directly.
- Schools across Nova Scotia's Regional Centres of Education and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. While this funding was not intended to support the delivery of school meal programs (i.e. breakfast and lunch), we accepted applications from youth groups (i.e. student councils) and Schools Plus staff who were looking to lead a project that enhanced food access for young people in their school or community.



Background & Rationale

Developing the Youth Food Fund

At Nourish Nova Scotia, we inspire and equip young people in Nova Scotia to learn about food and transform the food systems around them. Having nutritious food is fundamental to the well-being of young people — but nearly one-third of Nova Scotia children live in food-insecure households, with significantly higher numbers among Black and Indigenous families.

Despite the power of food in supporting wellbeing, many young people do not have opportunities to learn important food knowledge and skills that are essential for developing healthy habits and having positive experiences with food.

That's why Nourish Nova Scotia helps young people learn about food and transform the food systems around them. We do this through food literacy programs, capacity building, and advocacy.

As part of building capacity, Nourish Nova Scotia aims to support youth food programs and projects across the province through resource sharing, mentorship, and providing funding when possible. The Nourish Youth Food Fund was developed through a one-time funding opportunity provided by Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage.

Through this funding, we were able to increase capacity for 52 organizations and projects across Nova Scotia to engage youth in food literacy programs, provide food access, and purchase infrastructure to allow for sustainable food programs within their organizations.



Application Overview

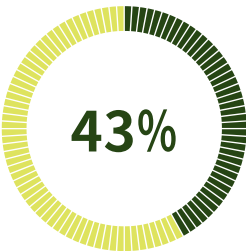
The Youth Food Fund officially opened to accept applications on August 7th, 2024 and included two funding rounds. The second round closed on November 4th, 2024, as the end of which, funding was exhausted. The Youth Food Fund was able to fund 43% of all project applications that were submitted, which was a total of 52 projects from 120 project applications.

Round One Submissions: 36
Total Funding Requested: \$160,893.05
Average Project Amount: \$4469.25

Round Two Submissions: 84
Total Funding Requested: \$315,581.74
Average Project Amount: \$3756.93

Round One Approved Applications: 24
Round One Funding Provided:
\$103,412.00

Round Two Approved Applications: 28
Round Two Funding Provided:
\$102,800.00



Total Funding Provided	\$206,212.00
Total Funding Requested	\$476,474.79

Total Projects Funded	52
Total Applications Received	120



Evaluation of the Youth Food Fund

Evaluating our Impact Across Nova Scotia

Successful applicants of the Youth Food Fund have agreed to the completion of a short summary report which will allow Nourish Nova Scotia to share outcomes, stories, and lessons learned throughout the implementation of the Youth Food Fund.

Summary reports are to be completed by applicants upon the completion of their program, and no later than December 15th, 2025. Over the upcoming 6-12 months, Nourish Nova Scotia will be collecting these summary reports and conducting a full Youth Food Fund evaluation.

Youth Food Fund Summary Reporting Includes:

- A brief description of the project and activities undertaken.
- At least one output and one outcome achieved through the project.
- A short story that reflects something meaningful to the applicant and the impact of their program.
- Their experience with the Youth Food Fund application process.
- Supporting media (photos, videos, etc.) that show their program in action.

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During the course of the program we had two youth really step up and take leadership of a dish each week and rallying their team behind them. This was a level of ambition we have not seen from them in other programs. This level of confidence has continued on and into other programs. For one of the youth their dream is to be a chef this program opened up the door for them to feel more comfortable sharing their food with the youth in other programs. As well as help lead younger youth.

—Youth Food Fund Recipient

