

USAID Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity

Request for Applications (RFA)

1. BACKGROUND

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity is a five-year initiative aiming to increase positive youth contributions to society and collective youth leadership. To achieve this, IESC and Macedonian partners Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED) Hub Skopje and Youth Educational Forum (YEF) prioritize a youth-centered local systems approach to jointly implement activities under the Activity’s three Components:

- Component 1: Partnerships created to support economic opportunities attractive to youth.
- Component 2: Youth’s competencies for jobs, progressive careers, and civic life strengthened.
- Component 3: Values and experience that underpin self-reliance promoted.

2. OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

Youth Actively Create Opportunities Activity is seeking full applications for grants activities that accelerate and expand upon Activity’s objectives to address youth priorities and increase youth economic opportunities, competencies and youth civic engagement in North Macedonia. The following grant packages are available:

RFA number	Grant Technical Description	Purpose of Grant	Ceiling Amount*	Minimum Required Leverage**	Grant Duration
RFA YACO 01 – 2023	Rapid Response Grant	Addresses specific youth challenges and immediate youth priorities through implementation of activities. The proposed activities should be designed to identify and fund youth-led solutions across the country, increase positive youth contributions to society and collective youth leadership	\$10,000	10%	3 - 9 months
RFA YACO 02 – 2023	Challenge Grant	Addresses systemic challenges youth face to economic opportunities or civic engagement, and include wide implementation, reach and impact. The proposed activities should contribute to high-value training and employment opportunities and ensure equitable inclusion and skills development.	\$40,000	20%	6 - 18 months
RFA YACO 03 – 2023	Sustainable Growth Grant	Addresses long-term strategies, institutional capacity building, organizational development and growth, and in-depth impact. The activities in addition to contributing to high-value training and employment opportunities, youth civic engagement, and ensuring equitable inclusion and skills development, should enhance organizational capacity and ensure sustainable growth.	\$150,000	25%	12 - 24 months

**Ceiling amount is the maximum amount to be awarded;*

***Leverage is calculated as a percentage of total grant value.*

3. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants registered in North Macedonia may include youth groups, youth serving organizations, the private sector, community organizations, private education and training institutions, professional or business associations, and NGOs and partnerships of abovementioned organizations. Such partnerships will consist of one lead applicant who meets all eligibility criteria.

Applicants can apply for one, two or all three available grant packages. Furthermore, this request for applications (RFA) is for grant activities under all three Activity Components.

4. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Full applications are due no later than **October 9, 2023 14:00** (UTC/GMT +2 hours) and should be submitted in electronic copy. All applications should reference RFA number and the grant technical description, namely **Rapid Response Grant, Challenge Grant** and/or **Sustainable Growth Grant**. For applicants applying for more than one grant package, separate emails and application documents should be submitted.

Electronic copies or PDF format of the originals should be emailed to: yacogrants@iesc.org.

(The budget should be submitted in both formats PDF and excel)

Please note that the email **cannot exceed the maximum size 25MB**.

To make the information on grants accessible to all interested Applicants and give them a chance to ask questions about the process and receive guidance on how to submit a full application, two virtual info sessions will be organized in Macedonian language with the possibility to ask questions in Macedonian and Albanian language:

Virtual info session	Date	Time (UTC/GMT +2 hours)
Microsoft Teams	September 12, 2023	11:00 hours
Microsoft Teams	September 14, 2023	13:00 hours

To attend one of the virtual info sessions, please register by filling in the required information on the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DWQ8X6> **no later than September 10, 2023**.

Applicants can also send questions about the RFA process to yacogrants@iesc.org until **September 19, 2023**. No later than **September 21, 2023**, all answers to questions will be posted on the following Activity's website: <https://iesc.org/program/north-macedonia-youth-actively-create-opportunities/>

Full applications are due no later than **October 9, 2023, at 14:00 hours** (UTC/GMT +2 hours). Submissions received after the closing date and time will not be considered nor will incomplete applications that do not include all required annexes.

Overview of key dates:

Activity	Due Date
Registration for the virtual info session due date	September 10, 2023

Virtual info session	September 12, 2023 and September 14, 2023
Questions due to yacogrants@iesc.org	September 19, 2023
Posts responses to questions	September 21, 2023

Submission of applications:	
Start date	September 6, 2023
End date	October 9, 2023
Estimated start date of the grant	November 15, 2023 (tentative)

To access the full Request for Application and related annexes, click on the relevant links below:

RFA YACO 01 – 2023 Rapid Response Grants	Annex 1	Annex 2	Annex 3	Annex 4	Annex 5	
RFA YACO 02 – 2023 Challenge Grants	Annex 1	Annex 2	Annex 3	Annex 4	Annex 5	Annex 6
RFA YACO 03 – 2023 Sustainable Growth Grants	Annex 1	Annex 2	Annex 3	Annex 4	Annex 5	Annex 6