

# ATTENTION

Are you between 15 and 30 years of age?  
Determined to make a difference in your community?  
Looking for an opportunity to develop valuable skills and gain key experience?

**Employment and Social Development Canada** 2021 Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) Youth Innovation Component provides an opportunity for you to have a direct impact in the lives of persons with disabilities. You can do this by applying to become an **EAF Youth Accessibility Leader** and addressing accessibility barriers in public spaces or workplaces within your community. Through this work, you will:

- create greater awareness about accessibility needs
- encourage organizations to apply for EAF funding to address existing accessibility barriers, and
- build a more inclusive and accessible Canada

As an **EAF Youth Accessibility Leader**, you can work as a team and have friend's support throughout the process as you join a community of youth from across the country that have:

- found accessibility barriers in workplaces or public spaces
- talked with organizations about their existing accessibility barriers
- encouraged organizations to apply for funding to address their accessibility barriers
- helped an organization draft and submit a project proposal (valued at up to \$10,000)
- helped promote the program at media events, and
- made a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities

Benefits of being a Youth Accessibility Leader:

- increased awareness of accessibility barriers in your community
- personal and community empowerment
- valuable presentation skills
- experience preparing or assisting in preparing project proposals
- networking opportunities, and
- social responsibility and volunteer experience that impacts your community

The application period to become a Youth Accessibility Leader is from June 4, 2021 to October 29, 2021 at 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for technology for persons with disabilities. For this reason, projects related to **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** are a priority for this funding.

**What you need to know before you apply.** Read this section to learn more about the process:

1. apply to become a Youth Accessibility Leader by completing the online form. After you have applied, you will receive an email to confirm receipt of your application within 10 business days

2. if you are eligible, we will send you a tool kit by email with all the information required to help you start. The tool kit includes the Youth Journey Journal, application form, and applicant guide. This information will give a basic understanding of the EAF program and the eligibility criteria of the process
3. you will think about your community and find accessibility barriers that limit persons with disabilities from participating in everyday life. You will talk to an organization with existing accessibility barriers and encourage them to apply for funding through the EAF Youth Innovation Component
4. you will help the interested organization to complete the funding application

In order to be eligible for funding, **clearly and completely** tell us how your project meets the following criteria:

- it will be for community use (not an individual user like a personal hearing aid)
- the end-users are persons with disabilities, and
- the organization requires the technology to support programming and/or services offered for persons with disabilities

**Some ICT project ideas include:**

- purchasing specialized accessible communication equipment
- modifying a website to make it accessible for persons with disabilities
- installation of an FM loop system
- installing visual-audio fire alarm systems
- purchasing screen readers
- installing voice recognition software and speech synthesizers
- install adaptive technology for a client services desk to make accessible for employees with disabilities

**Eligible organizations**

The following organizations are eligible to apply for EAF Youth Innovation Component funding:

- not-for-profit organizations (including social enterprises)
- businesses (maximum 99 full-time equivalent employees)
- Indigenous organizations
- municipal governments

**Organizations that are not eligible for the funding**

- Primary and secondary schools
- Publicly funded health care institutions

For more information or to begin your application, please go to:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/enabling-accessibility-fund-youth-innovation.html>