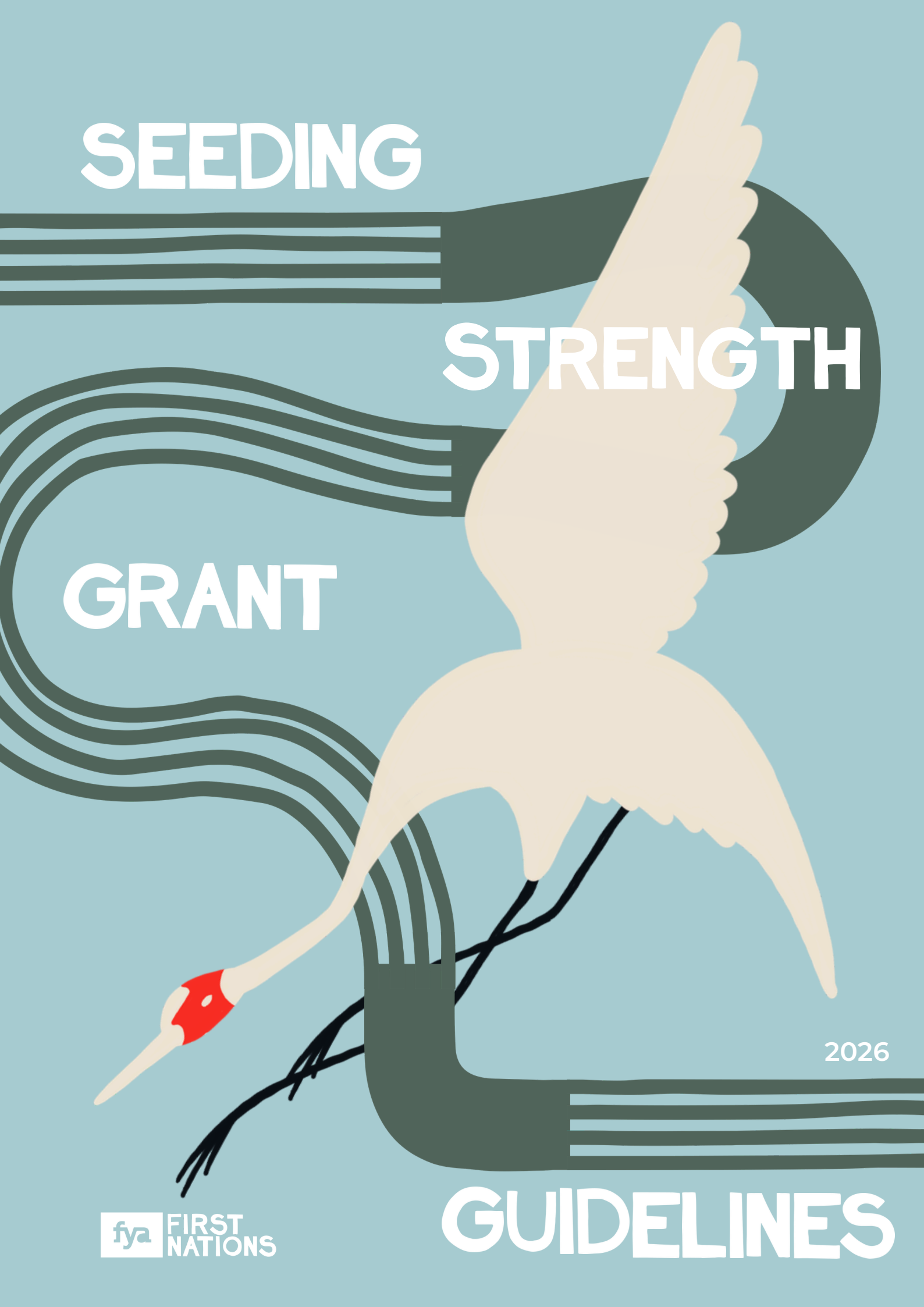
SEEDING STRENGTH GRANT

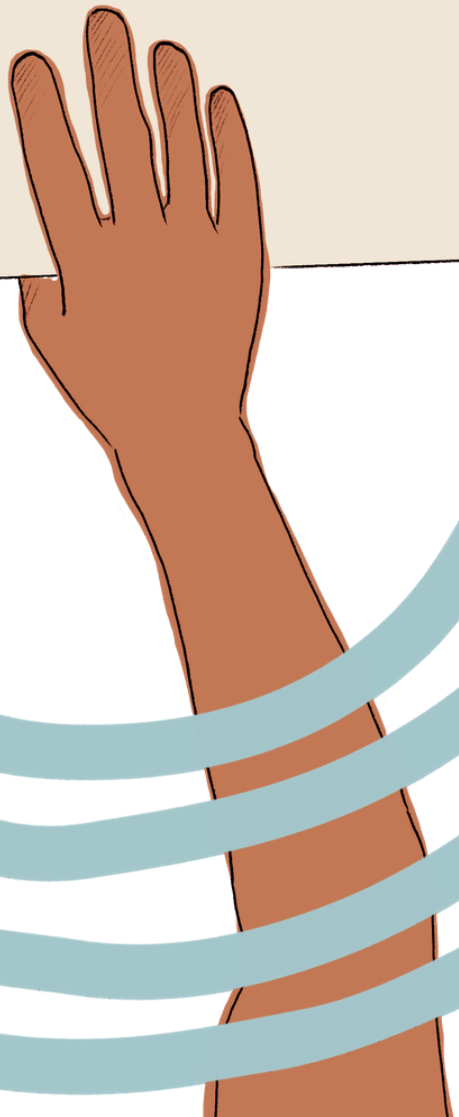


2026

GUIDELINES

fya FIRST NATIONS

The 2026 **Seeding Strength Grants** include up to $100k of funding overall, open to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (16-35) and organisations fighting injustice and building Blak power across the country.



What is Seeding Strength?

Our vision is that First Nations young people's voices and truth are heard and respected on the change they want to see. They are strong in spirit, stories, connected to community, land, language and culture. First Nations young people are self-determined, sovereign caretakers of Country. They are living free from racism, discrimination, domination and injustices. The future is Blak and strong, and Country is healing.

One of the powerful ways that FYA can support young First Nations people and their communities to create change is by shifting resources. First Nations young people and their campaigns, movements and projects need financial backing to win. We have a role in fundraising, shifting resources through grant-making, monitoring and evaluation, and increasing philanthropic connections.

We will provide support to the young mob that we'll be funding by ensuring that they have the governance and systems in place to use the funds for maximum impact. We'll also work with them to embed and increase monitoring and evaluation skills to build the evidence base of this work, with the aim of securing ongoing sustainable funding for long term change.



[1] In this document, we use the term 'First Nations' to mean Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

What we'll fund

Our role is to support young First Nations people to channel and grow their **inherent strengths** to overcome **systemic, individual and social challenges**, to shift power and achieve **the self-determined change they want to see**.

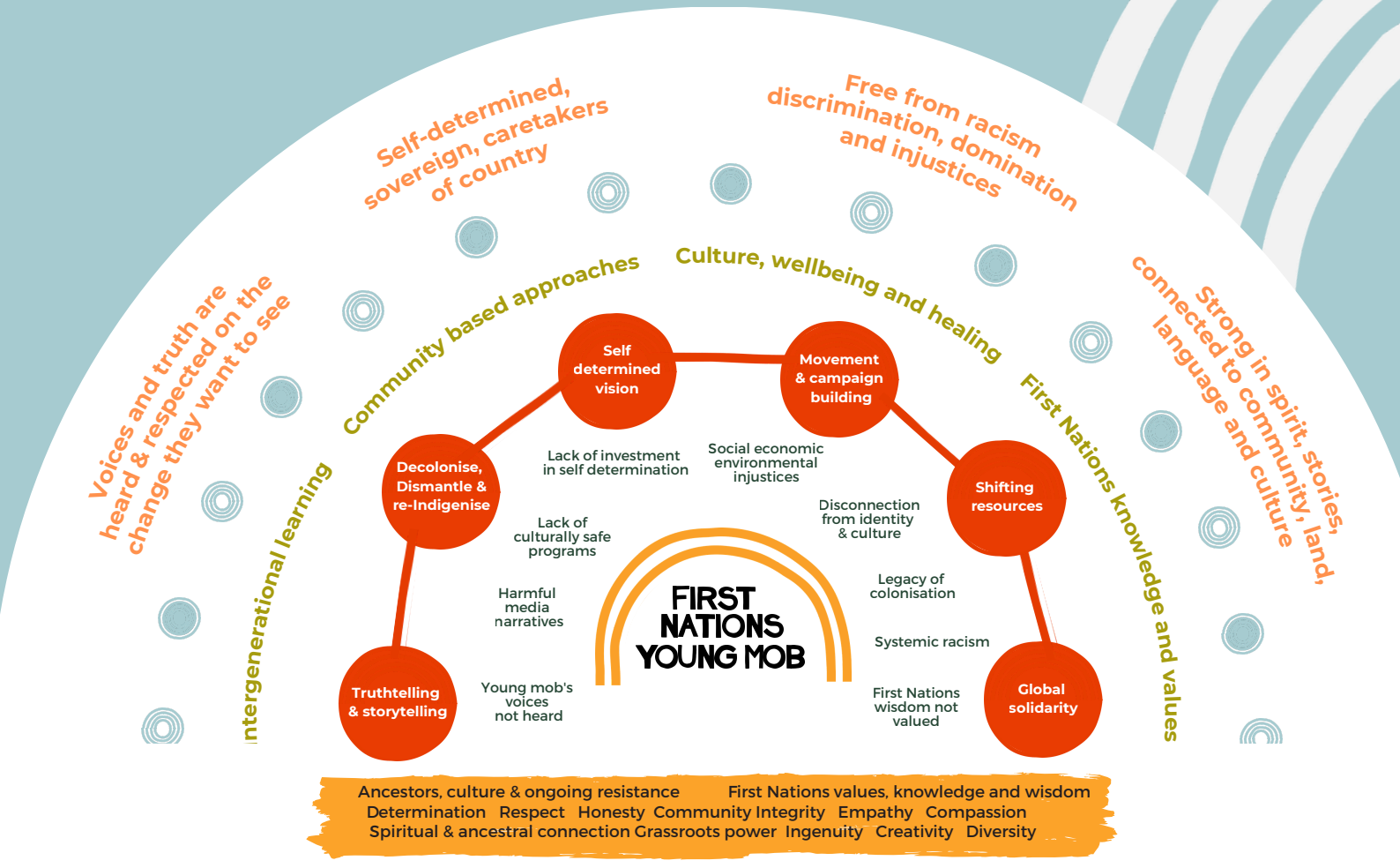
Through our First Nations Strategy, we've identified 5 impact areas that are critical to shifting power to young mob for them to create the self-determined change in their communities and on these sacred lands in so-called Australia.



Grant area	Examples
Truth telling and storytelling: Young mob's voices and stories need to be heard, truth telling and shifting narratives is critical to achieving First Nations justice and healing.	• A truth-telling film made by a First Nations young person. • A project supporting First Nations young people with lived experience of injustices to tell their stories on different platforms.
Decolonising policies and institutions and re-Indigenising solutions: Harmful, racist, colonial institutions and policies must be dismantled to end injustices facing young mobs, and First Nations ways of doing, knowing and solutions should be embraced.	• A campaign on climate justice focused on First Nations solutions run by grassroots mob • A project in a First Nations community building evidence on alternatives to prisons or police
Global Solidarity: Right now its important to build global solidarity between all colonised peoples.	• An overseas international exchange trip building connection, healing, well-being, relationship building and solidarity • Hold an activity locally to help build solidarity in your community • This could be with Palestine, Kanaks, West Papua, Maori and other global movements to bring people together in solidarity
Building and strengthening movements and campaigns: First Nations young people will achieve transformative change through strong movements and effective campaigns.	• Bringing over a global First Nations speaker to do a workshop with young mob • Core funding (ie salaries) for First Nations justice campaigns or movements • Holding a protest or creative action in a community, for example an Invasion or Survival Day event on January 2026
Blak Future planning: Having a strong vision and being able to gather and connect is critical to transformative change.	• Holding a gathering of young mob together in your movement to create a vision for a strong Blak future • Workshops to imagine the world we want to create.

We believe that by supporting and funding campaigns, movements and projects in these five areas, we will see power shift to young mob and this will lead to transformative change:

- Young mob's voices & truth will be heard on the change they want to see.
- Young mob will be strong in spirit, stories, connected to community, land, language and culture.
- Young mob will be self-determined, sovereign caretakers of Country.
- Young mob will be living free from racism, discrimination, domination and injustices.
- The future is Blak and strong, and Country is healing.



FYA First Nations Strategy

Strengths | Barriers | Strategies | Approaches woven in | Funded projects | Vision

Our Values

We are accountable, transparent and evaluate our work.

We back First Nations young people and our communities efforts for self-determination, sovereignty, land back, ritual back, culture back, language back, water back, climate justice, disability justice, political power and prison abolition.

We are committed to decolonisation and we work to undo the harms of ongoing colonisation.

We centre and are led by the vision, knowledge, culture, expertise and values of First Nations peoples.

We show solidarity and connect with First Nations people across the world.

We are trauma-informed and centre holistic and First Nations models of wellbeing, care and healing.

We provide safe and inclusive spaces and understand the intersectional experiences of LGBTQIA+ mob, mob living with a disability and young parents.

How Seeding Strength grants work



Two types of grants are available:

Rapid response:

- First Nations young people (aged 16-35 years) can apply for rapid response grants of $2,000 to $10,000 for urgent campaigns/movements/initiatives relating to social change in response to systematic oppression & specific injustices of First Nations young people.
- Applications for Rapid Response grants are open all year round.
- We understand that these can be urgent situations. We'll make initial contact within a week, but allow a month for the turn around of funds if successful. We will aim to get them to you as soon as possible.

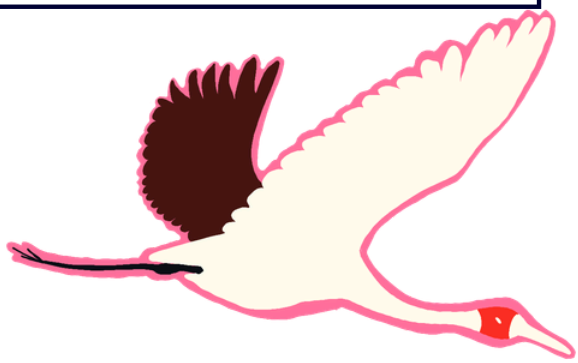
Campaign, movement or project based:

- In 2026, we have a total of $100,000 of funding available, with grants ranging from $2000 to $50,000.
- You can apply for a one-off grant (distributed by January 2027 at the latest).
- For one-off grants the money can be spent over 1-2 years, let us know about this in your budget breakdown, and it will be documented in your grant agreement.
- These grants are targeted at five impact areas:
  - Truthtelling and storytelling
  - Decolonising, dismantling and re-Indigenising
  - Building and strengthening movements and campaigns
  - Global solidarity
  - Blak Future planning

Key dates for 2025:

Applications open	**22 October**
Online info session	**26 October 5-6pm AEDT**
Applications close	**09 November**
Shortlist announced	**11 November**
Final recipients notified	**27 November**
Announce Grantees and funds released	**We will aim for this to be paid in December 2026, or by January 2027 (at the latest)**

Who can apply?



You can apply for this grant if you are:

- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person;
- Aged 16-35 years of age (priority will be given to young mob under 25 years of age);
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation;
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run movement or collective.

You can also apply on someone else's behalf.

You cannot apply for this grant if you are:

- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who works for a non-Indigenous organisation and is applying for these funds on their behalf.

Selection criteria

Grant recipients will be selected by a panel of three First Nations people from our First Nations Governance Group. These are all young mob aged under 35 years. You can read more about our First Nations Governance Group here.

We will prioritise funding for:

- **Grassroots and not-for-profit** campaigns, projects, organisations and movements. By grassroots, we mean campaigns, projects and movements that are based in community and not attached to an organisation. By not-for-profit, we mean your campaign does not operate for the financial benefit of its members. You may still generate an income from this work, but excess profits are used for the benefit of community, and the overarching goal is building collective Blak power and/or fighting injustice.
- **Young mob aged 16-25 years.**
- **Current funding:** Campaigns/movements/projects who don't currently have much funding and funding opportunities (and are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run and controlled);
- **Lived experience:** Movements, projects or campaigns that have a focus on being led by people who have lived experience being disabled or LGBTQI+, in the justice system, state care, mental health system, impacts of climate change and/or housing instability.

The panel will also take into consideration:

- **Intersectionality:** We will also aim to fund a diverse mix (age, ability, gender, mobs) of people and campaigns/movements/projects recognising that there are multiple layers of discrimination and injustice for intersectional mob.
- **Location:** We will aim to fund a diverse mix of young people and campaigns/movements/projects from regional and remote areas, alongside a mix of state and territories.



Funding criteria:

Eligibility	• An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; • Aged 16-35 years of age (priority will be given to young mob under 25 years of age); • An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation; • An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander run movement or collective. • You can also apply on someone else's behalf.
Vision	• You have a vision for how you want to create change for young mob. For the expression of interest, we want to hear from you about how what you are doing is going to create change.
Making change	• Your campaign, project or movement is focussed on something important to First Nations young people and has the potential for transformative change. This means long term changes that will reimagine how communities, policies and systems work.
Budget	• You have a clear idea of how you will spend the money and how much money you need.
Cultural governance	• You have accountability to your community for how you'll spend the money. This might look like a group of Elders or community members that guide you. This could be partnering with local community groups or organisations or letters of support from your local community/elders.
Theory of change	• You have a strong theory of change (don't worry, we'll help you create this!), which means we understand how your campaign or movement will lead to change happening. We'll help applicants who are shortlisted to create this.
For Rapid Response applications, there is an extra criteria:	
Urgency	• You need this money urgently to address a crisis or injustice in community. This might be something unexpected, or it could be a critical moment for a campaign that you are running and you want to take advantage of it.

How much should I apply for?

Start by making a copy of, and using our budgeting template.

- In 2026, we have a total of $100,000 of funding available, and you can apply for a grant from $2000 up to $50,000 (distributed in January 2027 at the latest).
- For Rapid Response, you can apply between $2,000 to $10,000.

Think through all of the different expenses that you'll need for your project, campaign or movement. Make an informed guess of how much things will cost (for example, getting quotes or researching online).

Look at how much money you already have to do the project. Have you got grants from other places, or are you applying for them? Once you know how much you need and how much you have, the difference between these two amounts will show you how much to apply for.

Reporting



- We are doing our best not to replicate colonial ways of reporting funding, which can be a barrier to mob receiving funding for important work in our communities.
- Our reporting process will be simple, managed by our First Nations Team, and tailored to your needs. This may involve:
  - Attending a two hour meeting and debrief of the project with key organisers and FYA First Nations team staff;
  - Providing photos, footage and/or quotes from participants/your organisation or movement involved that shows the project's impact (not for public use without your consent);
  - FYA First Nations team will write up the summary, impact and learnings to present back to our Board and other funders, with your approval and consent.
- This will not involve financial reporting.

Application process

Step 1	Fill out this short Expression of Interest form, by writing or video. If you need help, book in a time with our team. Someone else can also apply on your behalf. You can attach any supporting documents that you think will strengthen your application - for example, a written letter of support from community. Though you don't have to complete this step until your application has been shortlisted, we have linked a Budget template and Theory of Change template in preparation for the final interview.
Step 2	You'll be notified if you have made it onto the shortlist by 11 November 2026. If you are on the shortlist, you'll be invited to do a more detailed application (including a breakdown of budget and the theory of change) and/or interview. This will involve: • Meeting with a member of our First Nations team to complete the documents and record a short video (if you aren't comfortable recording your own video, we can help with that). • You will also be asked to provide two references from Elders, Traditional Owners and/or community members who have cultural authority for this work. References can be provided in the format that works best for community (voice note, letter, email, text, etc).
Step 3	The panel will consider your application. You'll be notified of the outcome of your application by 27 November 2026. If you are unsuccessful, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with the First Nations team to get more feedback.
Step 4	If you are successful, the funds will be released to you by January 2027 at the latest.
Step 5	There'll be a reporting process, but we'll keep it simple. We'll tailor this to your needs.

Keen to apply ?
Register your interest now!

fya.org.au/seeding-strength

