



City of Knoxville Office of Community Safety & Empowerment

2025 Empower Knox Grant Proposal – Event Funding

Open Application Window: November 11, 2024 - May 1, 2025

Preliminary Review Deadline: April 28, 2025 at 4:30

Application Window Closes: May 1, 2025 before 4:30

Section 1: Application Check List

Please submit all of the following. Applications that are missing materials will not be accepted.

- ☒ Completed all Application Questions including Section 1-4 as well as Grant Proposal Sections 5 & 6.
- ☒ **Organization Annual Report or Budget** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor
- ☒ **Project Budget Form** (please use provided template)
- ☐ **W-9** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor - <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-w-9>
- ☒ **IRS 501c3 Tax Exempt Designation Letter** for applicant organization or fiscal sponsor
- ☒ **Currently registered with TN Secretary of State** or registration exemption letter from the State of TN for applicant or fiscal sponsor. See <https://tncab.sos.tn.gov/portal/registered-charities-search>
- ☐ (If using a fiscal sponsor) **Letter from Fiscal Sponsor** acknowledging intent to serve in that capacity

Section 2: Applicant Information

Organization Name: YOKE Current Date: 04/28/2025
Contact Name: Jonathan Haskell Position held by contact: Executive Director
Contact Email: jonathan@yokeyouth.com Phone Number: 865-522-6907
Physical Address: 1401 Cecil Ave. Knoxville, TN 37917
(If Different) Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3492 Knoxville, TN 37927

Section 3: Applicant Details

1.) Current Legal Business Status: (Select only one)

- ☒ 501c(3): If 501c(3), applicant is registered with the [State of TN as a Charitable Organization](#).
Please provide Registration No. TN #CO4973, Federal EIN 58-1380597
- ☐ Community-Based Organization (CBO) - Not an active 501c3 and/or utilizing a Fiscal Sponsor

(If Applicable) Fiscal Sponsor Name and Contact: _____

☐ Other (Local Education Agency, Non-Public School, etc): _____

2.) Describe the mission of your organization, the populations served, and the services offered. (100 words max)

Founded in 1977, YOKE transforms communities by mentoring middle school students, equipping young leaders, engaging local churches, and enriching local schools. Across 25 schools in 5 counties, volunteer mentors build life-changing relationships through after-school clubs, weekend camps, and summer adventures. Nearly half of YOKE's mentors and two-thirds of team leaders were once kids in our program, a testament to its lasting impact. Rooted in fun, adventure, and service, YOKE fosters leadership, belonging, and hope — empowering students today to lead the next generation.

3.) Have you received funding from the City of Knoxville in the past? If yes, list grant type and amount (50 words max)

- ☐ Yes
(If yes, list grant and amount)
- ☐ No

We have received 4 gifts of \$1,000 each designated as sponsorships for our annual event. In addition, we received \$6,000 in 2023 for our summer program.



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Section 4: Project Budget

1.) Project or Event Title: YOKE Summer Adventures

2.) Funding Amount Requested: \$ 1500

3.) Estimated Project Timeline (Start Date): May 15 (End Date): July 10

Line Item	Description/Details	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Program Materials				
Food	Drinks and snacks for two events			\$ 500.00
Total Program Materials:				\$ 500.00
Training & Meeting Supplies and/or Operating Costs				
Transportation	bus rental for 2 events			\$ 1,000.00
Total Training, Meeting, and/or Operating Costs:				\$ 1,000.00
Participant Stipends (if applicable)				
Total Participant Stipends:				\$ 0.00
Personnel and/or Administrative Costs				
Total Personnel and/or Administrative Costs (May not exceed 20% of Total):				\$ 0.00
Total Budget (Should equal Section 4, Question 2 – Total Amount Requested):				\$ 1,500.00

Applicant Organization Name: YOKE



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Please submit all grant application pages including Section 1-4 as well as Section 5 & 6 for each project.

Review the Empower Knox Event Funding Grant Guidelines [here](#).

Funding available from \$500-\$1,500 for direct engagement of youth ages 12-24. Not suitable for fundraising event sponsorships. Event must occur between January 1 and September 15, 2025. Short Answer text boxes will cut off beyond the word count maximum. Answers beyond the maximum may not be considered.

Section 5: Project Proposal and Focus

1.) Event Title: YOKE Summer Adventures

2.) Funding Amount Requested (up to \$1,500): 1500

3.) Exact or Proposed Event Timeframe (Start Date): June 5 (End Date): July 10 (no later September 15, 2025)

4.) Number of anticipated youth ages 12-24 directly served by requested funds: 120

5.) Please describe your event and the intended audience (150 max)

We have 2 Summer Adventures events planned for this summer, a hiking trip on June 5th and a rafting trip on July 10th. We are planning for 80 students and 20 volunteer leaders for each event. Funds from the grant would help cover the cost of transportation and food for the two events.

6.) How will your event support the Empower Knox mission to *Build Successful Life Outcomes for Knoxville's Youth*? (150 words max)

At YOKE, we believe transformational mentoring relationships are the key to lasting change in the lives of middle school students. Whether the goal is stronger self-esteem, healthier relationships, or higher educational aspirations, research consistently points to mentoring as a universally recommended intervention. For nearly 50 years, YOKE has partnered with local schools to offer high-quality, accessible after-school programs — always free of charge and open to students of any or no faith background. Our singular focus on middle school students ensures a targeted, effective approach during a critical developmental window. Studies show that mentored youth experience higher graduation rates, stronger family and peer relationships, improved behavior and self-esteem, greater educational ambitions, and a reduced likelihood of risky behaviors. YOKE's programs not only impact students immediately but also equip them to lead and serve the next generation, creating a ripple effect of hope and transformation throughout entire communities.

Section 6: Signature and Acknowledgement

1.) Reach out via email or phone for more information and assistance with your application or project proposal:

Questions?

Emily Norris

865-215-3524

enorris@knoxvilletn.gov

2.) If you wish, to have your application preliminarily reviewed for completeness:

Preliminary Application Review Due:

Monday, April 28, 2025 before 4:30p

3.) Submit applications and accompanying documents by email or in-person:

Final Application Deadline:

Thursday, May 1, 2025 before 4:30p

Applications will not be accepted beyond this deadline.

Emily Norris

Youth Engagement Manager

400 W Main Street, Room 546E

Knoxville, TN 37902

865-215-3524

enorris@knoxvilletn.gov

and

Office of Community Safety & Empowerment

400 W Main Street, Room 639

Knoxville, TN 37902

OCSE@knoxvilletn.gov