

Agents of Change Proposal Guide 2021-2022

Foreword

Thank you for your interest in the Agents of Change program. On behalf of the Agents of Change team and Calumet and Stong Colleges we look forward to receiving your project proposal.

Please use the following guide to create your proposal. It is **mandatory** that your submitted proposal include **ALL** sections outlined in this guide.

Submit your proposal and supporting documents online using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ApplyAgents21>

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: SUNDAY, JULY 4TH, 2021 AT 11:59 PM

If you have questions or concerns regarding the application process or the proposal itself, please contact ***Abdulkhader Mohammed***, Student Success Programs Support Coordinator at abdulk@yorku.ca.

Proposal Format Guide

- Please use **12 pt. Calibri** and **1" margin**.
- Each section has been specified with its maximum word count, please follow accordingly.
- The total word count of your submitted document must be **under 2000**, **excluding** **Contact and background information**, **Budget**, and **Supporting documents**.



Proposal Checklist:

Use the checklist below to ensure that you have completed all sections required in the proposal before submitting. **Before submitting your proposal, please make sure to include the following sections in your proposal:**

1. **Executive Summary** (instructions for this section are on page 3)
2. **Contact and Background Information**
 - a. Identification of Group Members
 - b. Identification of Community Partners
3. **Project Details**
 - a. Opportunity Statement
 - b. Detailed Project Description
 - c. Evaluation and Success
 - d. Sustainability
4. **Project Budget**
5. **Supporting Documents** (not mandatory)

1.0 Executive Summary

Note: SKIP THIS SECTION UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE REST. As this section is intended to be the “hook” of your idea for decision makers and funders, we recommend you write it last. Ensure that your writing is concise, engaging and easy to understand.

In this section, summarize your Agents of Change initiative idea. The executive summary should be clear, concise, and inspiring.

Briefly address the following areas in your executive summary:

- **Project vision:** Your vision should be *specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and timely*.
- **Goals, deliverables, and timeframe.**
- **Target population of the project:** Please justify the need for your initiative with research.
- **How this project is innovative and unique? Ensure your project does NOT replicate services on campus. If services are duplicated, does your project complement or expand already existing initiatives?**
- **How this project demonstrates the flexibility required during this time of Covid-19:** How you will work around these limitations. Will you deliver your services online? Etc.
- **Existing resources and required budget.**

Maximum: 300 words.

2.0 Contact and Background Information

Identification of Group Members

Eligibility to apply for Agents of Change:

- A York University undergraduate/graduate student returning for the academic year of 2021-2022.
- Good academic standing with York University.
- *If applying as a group:*
 - Maximum number of group members is 5.
 - The majority of the team (over 50%) must be from the Faculty of Health.

Please include all the contact information for the primary contact for your project and all group members. This should include their full names, student number, program major, year of study, email address and telephone number. **Please see the example below and complete one for each group member. If you are applying as a group, please specify who will be your designated primary contact.**

Full name:

Student number:

Program major:

Year of study (for the year of 2021-2022):

Email address:

Phone number:

Identification of Community Partners

In this section, describe your community partners. **How will working with each of these community partners advance the goals of your initiative? How will they benefit from your involvement?**

Background information about the community partners

- Name
- Website
- Email address (or other means of contact)
 - *If your partner is an organization:* **Contact information of the individual**, you will be directly working with within the agency

If you have not contacted your community partner(s), please list as much information about the organization(s)/individual(s) that you plan to work with.

Please note that your partner can be either on-campus or off-campus. Previous community partners have included:

- [Toronto Children's Book Bank](#)
- [Mental Health Disability Services at York](#)
- [Affiliated student clubs within Faculty of Health \(KAHSSO\)](#)
- [Kennedy House Youth Shelter](#)
- [Residence Life](#)
- [Black Creek Community Health Centre](#)
- [York University faculty and staff members.](#)

If you have trouble finding a community partner, please contact Abdulkhader Mohammed at abdulk@yorku.ca.

No word limit.

3.0 Project Details

Opportunity Statement

In this section, please describe the problem or need that your initiative will tackle. Please address the following:

- Please describe which of the **17 Social Determinants of Health (SDOHs)** and the **17 United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** your initiative addresses.
 - Please see **Appendix A (Pages 8-10)** for a brief description of the 17 determinants of health and to learn more about the SDGs.
- **Who is the target population?**
 - *If your project is intended to be in-person in any way:* Identify the location(s) where your initiative will be implemented.
- **What impact does your initiative have on the target population? What is the anticipated scope of your impact for 2021-2022?**
- **How does your initiative address or solve the problem?**
- **Has a similar initiative been previously implemented by you or other organizations?**
 - *If yes:* Why do you want to repeat the initiative? Please comment on the success of previous initiatives and the innovative edge of your initiative.
 - If your project duplicates already existing **initiatives on campus**, describe how your project complements or expands these services.

Maximum: 300 words.

Detailed Project Description

In this section, please provide a detailed overview of your project including your proposed timeline. Ensure that you address the following items in this section:

- 1) **Primary objectives and goals:**
 - Objectives are general outcomes you would like to see (*e.g., increasing public awareness of an issue*).
 - Goals are more specific and include details such as distributing 500 flyers on campus (goals help you meet your overall objective).

- **Maximum: 250 words.**

2) Activities:

- How will you meet your objectives and goals?
- Specify the activities in which you plan to engage, and if applicable, outline the role of your community partner.
- **How will this project take into consideration the limitations due to Covid-19?**
- **Maximum: 250 words.**

3) Key personnel:

- Who will be working on the project?
- What will be the primary responsibilities of each individual, and how will they support your overall goals and objectives?
- **Maximum: 250 words.**

4) Timeline:

- Outline exactly when specific events will happen and who will execute them.
- *This item is often completed in the **format of a chart or grid.***
- *If your timeline does not fit in this space, feel free to submit it as a **separate file as part of your application.** If you are uploading this document separately, please save it as “[YOUR PROJECT NAME] – Timeline.”*

Evaluation and Success

In this section, please describe how you will evaluate the success and/or difficulties of the project.
What will be the indications that you have met your objectives?

Maximum: 300 words.

Sustainability

In this section, please describe elements of sustainability in your initiative. **How will you continue to execute your initiative in future years without the funding from the Faculty of Health?**

Maximum: 125 words.

4.0 Project Budget

Your budget is one of the most important documents you can submit as part of a grant application. It demonstrates that you are able to take your ideas and translate them into concrete actions. Being able to associate a cost with actions show that you have thought about every step those actions will require, and that you have already done your research by sourcing supplies, talking to contractors, and collaborating with your community partner.

Please use **Appendix B (Page 11)** as an outline to structure a full budget. ***Note that we expect this level of detail for each task mentioned in your budget.*** If you need any clarification regarding the details of this sheet, please contact Abdulkhader Mohammed at abdulk@yorku.ca.

We recognize that your full budget may be more than \$500 worth of available funds but please include all details so we can see a full picture of your project.

5.0 Supporting Documents

Note: This section is not mandatory.

In this section, you can **add any documents that you believe will support your initiative proposal**. Include any documents that emphasize the need for your healthy initiative in the community and/or its feasibility..

DO NOT attach resumes, cover letters or reference letters.

Appendix A

Definition of Social Determinants of Health: The primary factors that shape the health of individuals are not medical treatments or lifestyle choices but rather the living conditions and experiences they face. These factors include income, education and working conditions, social safety network, health services, gender, employment and working conditions, early childhood development, social exclusion, housing, unemployment and job insecurity, food insecurity, food, race, immigration, indigenous ancestry, geography, globalization and disability.

Consider: Does your initiative address the following?

1. Income and Income Distribution

Income, the primary factor of SDH is correlated with health. The greater the gap between the rich and poor, the greater the differences will be in health outcomes.

2. Education and Working Conditions

Lower education levels are linked with poorer health, higher stress levels and lower confidence. Individuals with control over their working conditions are healthier.

3. Social Safety Network

Social safety network helps support families, communities, and friends, which increases health. Traditions, customs, cultures and beliefs of communities and families impact health.

4. Health Services

Access to health facilities that include prevention management, health promotion and can treat diseases contribute to individual and population health.

5. Gender

Different gender groups experience various types of diseases at different ages. Gender is associated with personality traits, roles, values, behaviours that are in relation to power and influence that society ascribes. Health issues are a function of gender-based social status or roles.

6. Employment and Working Conditions

Employment has significant effect on a person's mental, physical, and social health. It provides a sense of identity, purpose, and opportunities for growth. A great amount of time gets spent at work, thus working conditions significantly impact health.

7. Early Childhood Development

Early childhood experiences effect brain development, school readiness and health later in life. Experiences from conception to age 6-7 have the most profound influences on connecting and sculpting the brain's neurons. Positive stimulation in early life improves learning, behaviour, and health in adulthood.

8. Social Exclusion

Social exclusion refers to certain groups having limited opportunities or access to participate in society. These groups are typically marginalized and include coloured, women, people with disabilities and immigrants.

9. Housing

Inadequate housing conditions and homelessness are evidently harmful to health. It is a clear indicator of a lack of economic resources and increases the risk of health problems.

10. Unemployment and Job Security

Unemployment leads to material and social deprivation, psychological stresses, and the risk of developing health-threatening coping behaviours. Job insecurity entails working part-time, being self-employed and/or having temporary work, without employment protection and health/dental benefits.

11. Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is linked with having an inadequate diet in terms of quality and quantity.

12. Race

Race affects health in numerous forms including, but not limited to, institutionalized racism, internalized racism, and personally mediated racism.

13. Disability

People with disabilities experience various societal limitations. Whether the disability is mental or physical, government policies do not always adequately support persons with disabilities potentially leading to limited contributions to society.

14. Indigenous Ancestry

Indigenous health is intrinsically linked with the history of European colonization. As a result, Indigenous face adverse social determinants of health and poor health outcomes. For example, many reserves lack necessities such as water, adequate living conditions and income, thus hindering their health.

15. Immigration

The intersection of immigrant status with other social locations such as gender and race interact with societal conditions, shaped by public policies, to determine adverse health outcomes.

16. Geography

Geography influences health through air, food, water, and the environmental pollution and vectors of disease to which communities are exposed. In addition, rural, remote, isolated, northern and urban geographies determine not only physical aspects of the environment, but also access to health care, food, education, employment and housing, among others.

17. Globalization

Globalization, by re-shaping economic and political rules, has constrained the abilities of governments and communities to create the living conditions that determine health.

For more information regarding the Social Determinants of Health, visit:

[https://www.thecanadianfacts.org/The Canadian Facts-2nd ed.pdf](https://www.thecanadianfacts.org/The_Canadian_Facts-2nd_ed.pdf)

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

York University has aligned the ***University Academic Plan 2020-2025*** with the ***United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*** (UN SDGs); a framework that calls on member countries to take urgent action in seventeen areas that are critical to ensure peace and prosperity for people and the planet. For more information, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/uap2020-25/answering-the-call/>.

Appendix B

| Task/Activity | Detailed Cost | | Personnel | In-kind Funding | Total Revenue | | Total Expenses | Balance |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|--|---|---|----------------|--|
| Write down the overall activity. | Break down the activity in terms of components of their costs. | | Mention the individual who is responsible for this task (if applicable). | Include a value for your time/efforts, or other donations you have received. | | | | |
| | | Total Estimated Cost | | | Secure Funding | Agents of Change Funding | | |
| | | | | | Indicate the funds you are requesting from other sources. | Indicate the funds you are requesting from the Faculty of Health. | | |
| Garden Construction | 5 planter boxes @ \$12.50/box | \$62.50 | | | | \$62.50 | \$62.50 | |
| | 20 plants @ \$2.00/plant | \$40.00 | | \$40.00 (Home Depot) | | | \$40.00 | |
| | 30L of soil @ \$5.00/L | \$150.00 | | | \$150.00 (TDSB) | | \$150.00 | |
| | 10 hours of labor @ \$15.00/hour | \$150.00 | A. Stypka | \$150.00 (A. Stypka) | | | \$150.00 | |
| Total | | \$402.50 | | \$190.00 | \$150.00 | \$62.50 | \$402.50 | In-kind Funding + Total Revenue - Total Expenses = 0 |

Figure 1. Budget Sheet Outline

Explanation: Notice that in reading the budget you can see that A. Stypka will be planting a garden for 10 hours. Aside from the fact that this demonstrates thorough planning, this budget communicates a few other important facts.

Firstly, it shows that the project is backed by other partners (Home Depot is donating plants, and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is contributing \$150.00 for soil). This alone gives your project credibility.

Secondly, despite a total cost of over \$400.00, you are only asking for \$62.50 from the Faculty of Health. That's akin to telling them "I'll give you \$400.00 worth of impact for just a \$60.00 investment." This is the kind of message you want to give your funders.