

PUBLICATION DATE: **Sept 1st, 2025**

Indigenous Youth Building Resilient Communities

Call for Project Proposals: 2026 Indigenous Youth Fellowship

Program Overview

Cultural Survival is pleased to announce the 2026 Call for Proposals for the **Indigenous Youth Fellowship** program. This initiative aims to **strengthen cultural identity** and **enhance leadership skills** among Indigenous youth. Since its launch in 2018, the program has awarded over **157 fellowships**, positively impacting more than **350 Indigenous youth** worldwide.

The fellowship provides **financial support** for youth-led projects that benefit Indigenous communities, along with **opportunities for leadership development**. Fellows are encouraged to amplify community voices and bring attention to local issues within global dialogues through their projects.

Fellowship Details

- **Award Amount:** \$2,500 – \$5,000 USD (depending on the scope of the project)
- **Project Duration:** between 3 and 6 months
- **Execution Period:** March – September 2026

Timeline

Stage	Date
Open Call for Proposal Concepts	September 1, 2025
Deadline to Submit Proposal Concepts	September 30, 2025 (11:59 PM ET)
Notification of Selected Concepts	October 30, 2025
Deadline to Submit Full Proposals	November 21, 2025
Final Notification of Selected Fellows	December 12, 2025
Awarding Stage	January–February 2026
Fellowship Projects Begin	After March 1, 2026

Eligibility Criteria

This year's fellowship will support **Indigenous youth** (individuals or groups) leading **multidisciplinary, creative, and community-driven projects**.

Applicants must:

- Be an **Indigenous youth** or **group of youth** between the ages of **18 and 28**
- Be **committed to working with Cultural Survival** and **meeting deadlines**
- Be **preferably fluent** in or **interested in learning** an Indigenous language
- **Not a former Cultural Survival Youth Fellow**

Fellows will work closely with **Cultural Survival staff** and a **local mentor**, who will voluntarily offer guidance, encouragement, and feedback throughout the project. We prioritize **gender balance** and actively encourage applications from **women** and **2SLGBTIQ+ youth**. Geographic diversity will also be considered in the selection process.

Eligible Regions for 2026

In addition to the global open call, we especially welcome applications from the following regions:

- **The Americas: with a focus on** Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, and Guyana.
- **Asia: with a focus on** Bangladesh, Mongolia, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and India
- **Africa: with a focus on** Chad, Cameroon, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, DRC, Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, and Angola.

Project Proposal Requirements

- Be **3–6 months in duration** and **implemented during** the March–September 2026 execution period
- Focus on **one or more** of the following themes:
 - **Climate Change Solutions**
 - Climate crisis and disaster preparedness and response
 - Environmental protection and biodiversity
 - Maintenance of ecosystem services
 - Strengthening local resilience and local traditional knowledge, place-based solutions.
 - **Culture and Languages**
 - Strengthen culture bearers and language leaders
 - Cultural and artistic expression
 - Revitalization and protection of knowledge systems
 - **Lands and Livelihoods**
 - Solidarity-based models on Indigenous economies and food sovereignty
 - Land defense, land titling, and traditional ways of managing natural resources.
 - Transmission of knowledge through the management and protection of traditional lands and territories.

- Indigenous rights and gender diversity
- Revitalize governance structures and cultural traditions in urban and rural areas.

Eligible activities may vary depending on the theme and can include **capacity building, workshops, structure building, multimedia and media projects**, or other forms of **community engagement and knowledge sharing**.

How to apply

Submit a **proposal concept** through the **Google Form** (link to be added) by **September 30, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET**. Selected applicants will be notified via email by October 30, 2025, with instructions to submit a **full proposal and detailed budget** for the second round. Final fellowship selections will be announced in **December 2025**, and the award disbursement process will begin in January 2026. Projects may begin **anytime after March 1, 2026**.

Please ensure that the email address provided in your application is valid, regularly checked, and that your inbox is not full. Applications **cannot** be edited once submitted.

Applicants also have the option of submitting a **5-minute video or audio recording** in response to the questions on the form. This can be uploaded directly within the same Google Form.

Languages Accepted

We accept applications in: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Nepali, Sunuwar, Hindi, Afrikaans, and French.

Resources

- **Google Form Link:**
 - <https://forms.gle/Z5AG6FKnPDFRqYFP8>
- **Download Informational Packet:**
 -
- **Frequently Asked Questions** (To be added)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)