

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

What is the Indigenous Youth Fellowship Program?

The Indigenous Youth Fellowship is an initiative by Cultural Survival that supports Indigenous youth leaders (ages 18–28) in strengthening cultural identity, developing leadership skills, and implementing community-based projects that promote Indigenous rights, lands, languages, and cultures.

What support will I receive as a fellow?

Fellows receive a grant to implement their project, mentorship from Cultural Survival staff, and access to online spaces for dialogue on leadership and project management. They also have opportunities to publish their work and network with other Indigenous youth and organizations worldwide. Additional benefits may include invitations to in-person gatherings, participation in internships, and support to attend special events such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

What is the fellowship grant amount?

For 2026, grants will range from **\$2,500 to \$5,000 USD**, depending on the project's needs and duration. The project's duration can range from 3 to 6 months.

How long does the fellowship last?

In 2026, fellowship duration will depend on the project timeline, typically lasting **up to six months**.

Do I need to speak English to participate?

Applications are welcome in **English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French**. Cultural Survival provides translation and interpretation support when required.

What are the time commitments as a fellow?

Fellows must dedicate significant time to their project and maintain monthly communication with their mentor. Informal contact via WhatsApp and email is expected between meetings. Five online gatherings will be held every other month, each lasting at least two hours. Attendance at all meetings and prompt communication are required, except in exceptional circumstances.

What happens after the fellowship ends?

Fellows are encouraged to continue their work, share results with their communities, and remain active in the fellowship network for ongoing collaboration and support.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must:

- Be between 18 and 28 years old at the time of application.
- Propose a project benefiting their community, culture, or ancestral heritage.
- Have an interest in gaining experience in community work, organizing, or advocacy.

What kinds of projects are supported?

Projects may include—but are not limited to—cultural revitalization, language preservation, land and water

protection, traditional arts, storytelling, media production, community organizing, and the transmission of Indigenous knowledge.

Can groups apply, or only individuals?

Groups are welcome to collaborate, but only one person—the designated **project coordinator**—should submit the application. Collaboration with community members is encouraged.

I am part of an organization. Are they able to support me in the project?

Yes, provided the organization respects the autonomy and growth of the youth leading the project. The organization would serve as a guiding body and mentor, as one of the fellowship's goals is to strengthen youth leadership skills. Collaboration with community organizations is encouraged.

I am in the age range of 18–28, but work with team members who are older than 28. Can they be included?

Yes, but not as Fellows. Only individuals within the specified age range can serve as project leaders and fulfill fellowship requirements. Others may participate in a supporting role while respecting the youth leader's decisions and vision. Collaboration with older and younger community members is encouraged.

APPLICATIONS & SELECTION

How do I apply?

Each year, the application process is announced on the Cultural Survival website and social media. Applicants must submit a proposal describing their project, its cultural relevance, and expected impact. Applications must be submitted via the designated online form.

Can I submit more than one application?

We recommend submitting a single, well-developed proposal rather than multiple applications.

Q: When is the application deadline?

Deadlines vary annually. For the 2026 fellowship, the first application deadline is **September 30, 2025**. Please check Cultural Survival's website for full details.

How are fellows selected?

A review committee, composed primarily of Indigenous Cultural Survival staff, evaluates applications based on cultural relevance, feasibility, community impact, and youth leadership. Each application is reviewed at least three times.

Can I reapply if I was not selected before?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to strengthen their proposals and reapply in future cycles.

What if I have trouble applying online, lack consistent internet access, or experience technical issues?

Contact **capacity@culturalsurvival.org** for assistance.