

Play Works Youth Friendly Community Application

What is the Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program?

What is the Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program?

The Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program celebrates [communities](#) that recognize adolescent [youth](#) have different needs for [play](#) than children or adults do and intentionally develop, fund and sustain programs and services to meet youth needs.

Through extensive research and consultation, Play Works has established [10 criteria](#) for Youth Friendly Communities. To be recognized as Youth Friendly, a community must meet at least 7 of the 10 criteria. Recognition is awarded as follows:

- Those meeting 7 criteria: **Bronze Youth Friendly Community**
- Those meeting 8 criteria: **Silver Youth Friendly Community**
- Those meeting 9 criteria (including Criteria 2): **Gold Youth Friendly Community**
- Those meeting all 10 criteria: **Platinum Youth Friendly Community**

Criteria 2 (Youth are formally connected community-wide) must be met to be recognized at the Gold and Platinum levels.

Communities “meet” each criteria by submitting the tangible [documentation](#) required for that criteria. The size of the community will determine the minimum amount of documentation required per criteria. You can learn more information on meeting the criteria once you have logged in.

To ensure a well-rounded picture of efforts to meet the needs of youth, the application process enables lead applicants to involve other [community agencies or groups](#) in the submission.

More about the online application process

Communities are encouraged to participate in an orientation webinar before starting the application process, as this call provides information on how to complete the online application as well as tips to assist in collecting the required documentation. Please see the webinar dates and times on the application home page.

The Youth Friendly Community designation is granted for a three-year period, after which communities must reapply to continue to be recognized. At any point a community that has been recognized and that has not met all 10 criteria may reapply to do so.

The program is not a competition. There is no limit to the number of communities recognized each year. That said, submitting does not automatically ensure recognition. A Review Team considers the merits of each application.

- Only submissions completed in full will be considered.
- All applications must be completed online by January 6, 2021.
- Play Works reserves the right to withhold recognition.
- The decision of the Review Team is final.