

Play Works Youth Friendly Community Application

Who Can Apply?

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Any community in Ontario can apply to be a Youth Friendly Community. As noted in the [definitions](#) section, a “community” can be a geographically specific neighbourhood, a small township such as Brooke-Alvinston, a First Nations community such as Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, a defined community such as a Canadian Forces Base or a larger urban centre such as the City of Hamilton.

All communities in Ontario have the same opportunity to be designated Youth Friendly. We understand that the amount of programming and work done for youth ages 13 to 19, will vary greatly depending on population. For that reason, smaller communities require fewer examples to meet the criteria than larger ones do. More information on the required documentation can be found in the Application Instructions and in the individual criteria tabs.

A lead applicant completes the application. This could be someone from the local government/governing body, an agency such as the Boys and Girls Club or YMCA, or a group representing a collection of local agencies.

The lead applicant is encouraged to bring community organizations/groups to the table to help gather the documentation required for the application. Those representatives may include youth, service providers, businesses, citizens or anyone else involved in youth play. Community groups can provide the necessary documentation to help meet the Youth Friendly Community criteria, as well as providing letters of support for the application.

The most senior elected official of the local government/governing body (municipality, township, Canadian Forces Base or Indigenous community) must provide a letter of support for the application.

For more information on engaging community organizations/groups, see the Application Instructions.