

# **(Logo)VYM PROJECT TRANSITION**

## **Ontario Association of Youth Employment Centres**

**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING:                      Sample**  
The Counselling Foundation of Canada  
June 2002

### **ORGANIZATION DETAILS**

**Applicant:** Ontario Association of Youth Employment Centres (OAYEC)  
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**Charitable reg. #:** 13308 0507 RR0001  
**Ontario Corp. #:** 762718

**Project Title:** VYM Project Transitions  
**Project Duration:** 4 months  
**Project Dates:** July 2002 to October 2002

**Grant Request:** \$9,000

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Volunteer Youth in the Millennium (VYM) Project is nearing the end of its “pilot project” phase. One of the most vulnerable times for newly born projects is the transition from “pilot” status to permanent program entity. Just as importantly, with the pilot phase complete, and the program’s successes, benefits and challenges clearly identified, effective dissemination of the program model to other member agencies is now possible.

#### **The VYM Project Transitions initiative will:**

- Provide the support and closure needed to these pilot sites through this critical phase of their projects.
- Develop a practical “tool-kit” of lessons learned and resources collected through-out the pilot phase, for dissemination to other youth serving agencies.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE**

The Ontario Association of Youth Employment Centres (OAYEC) supports and advocates for the development and delivery of youth employment services in Ontario. Since its founding in 1988 with seed funding from The Counselling Foundation of Canada, OAYEC has emerged as the leading forum for the exchange and development of knowledge and practice related to youth employment.

We have a member network of over 70 centres across the geographical area. We deliver accessible, high employment services to over 140,000 young people each year, particularly to those from at-risk or other disadvantaged backgrounds.

For the past three years, with the support of The Counselling Foundation of Canada, OAYEC has engaged its member agencies and many provincial partners to incubate youth volunteerism programs in youth employment centres. To date, over 1500 mainly at risk youth have been placed in volunteer experiences through this program.

## **PROJECT RATIONALE**

### **From Pilot to Permanent**

The Volunteer Youth in the Millennium (VYM) Project is nearing the end of its “pilot project phase. One of the most vulnerable times for newly born projects is the transition from “pilot” status to permanent program entity – stakeholders need concrete evidence and outside encouragement that the project is successful, widely acclaimed and needed.

### **Low Profile**

OAYEC recently completed a comprehensive survey of its members’ school-to-work transition strategies. The survey revealed that the VYM project’s profile is still relatively low, although interest in volunteerism is fairly high. To encourage the dissemination of the VYM’s new program model to other member agencies, it is important to raise its profile in the general membership. The time is ripe for a profile – raising campaign, now that the pilot phase is complete and convincing successes and benefits can be highlighted.

### **Effective Dissemination**

One of the original goals of the VYM Project was to introduce a new youth employment preparation program model to the OAYEC membership. With the pilot phase complete, and the program’s successes, benefits and challenges clearly identified, effective dissemination of the program model to other member agencies is now possible. Resources, lessons learned and important contacts have been collected which can now be shared to help incubate new youth volunteer programs at other member agencies.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goal of the VYM Project Transitions initiative is to facilitate the applied dissemination of this new program model to other youth-serving agencies. To accomplish this, we will:

**Provide Closure:** provide resources and closure to existing pilot sites to assist them in the transition into a new, more independent phase of programming.

**Raise profile:** promote and celebrate the accomplishments, successes and benefits of youth volunteer programming within the OAYEC Network.

**Applied Dissemination:** facilitate the dissemination of the youth volunteerism philosophy and program model to other youth-serving agencies and the OAYEC members.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Volunteerism @YECs ToolKit:

OAYEC will work cooperatively with the ten current VYM Sites to identify and collect the critical factors of success to developing youth volunteerism project in youth employment centres (YECs). The lessons learned through the pilot phase of the VYM Project – resources, systems and contacts – will form the foundation of the Volunteerism @YECs ToolKit, to be developed by the OAYEC staff and a skilled consultant. The ToolKit will be a practical blueprint to guide other youth-serving agencies to develop their own youth volunteer placement program. This ToolKit will be disseminated to all the OAYEC members and stakeholders, and will be made available on the OAYEC’s website.

### Volunteerism Caucus at OAYEC Conference:

To provide continues support and networking opportunities to existing and new youth volunteer sites, the OAYEC Annual Conference will add a concurrent **Volunteer Caucus** workshop to its program. The **Volunteer Caucus** will allow Coordinators of youth volunteer programs across the province to share ideas, contacts and resources on developing successful volunteer programming for at-risk youth.

### Celebration:

To launch the completed **Volunteerism@YECs ToolKit**, and to kick off the first –ever **Volunteer Caucus**, the OAYEC Conference will hold a formal “graduation” ceremony for existing VYM Sites. This special event is planned as part of the Board Leadership: Profiling Youth Employment conference stream discussed in a separate proposal.

## BUDGET

	CFC	OAYEC & VYM Sites	TOTAL
<b>Development:</b> staff time and support expenses	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Production:</b> 85 hardcopies; posted to OAYEC website	<b>\$2,500</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Dissemination:</b> 65 members, other stakeholders	<b>\$500</b>		<b>\$500</b>
<b>Volunteer Caucus:</b> 8 pilot site staff at conference	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$3,100</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$13,600</b>