



## Application Guidelines

### Call for proposals from Latin American and Caribbean Youth Champions to scale up an HIV-related advocacy project

Proposals will be received until 15 September 2019.

*Are you a young person under 30 years living with or affected by HIV in Latin American or the Caribbean?*

*Are you affiliated with a community-based organization and/or an HIV service provider in your community?*

*Do you play a leadership role in your community?*

*Are you passionate about advocacy?*

If you answered yes to the above questions, you may be eligible for a grant to scale up and HIV-related advocacy project in your community.

#### YOUTH VOICES CAMPIAGN BACKGROUND

Since launching in 2016, with support from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action for Adolescents and MAC AIDS Fund, the [Youth Voices](#) campaign has developed two key components:

- 1) The [Youth Champions](#) seed grant programme which supports young people to design and implement advocacy campaigns in target countries; and
- 2) The *Youth Ambassador Programme* which offers intensive capacity development to young leaders in the HIV response centred on the global conferences organized by the IAS.

Both aspects of the campaign utilize the convening power of the IAS, to ensure that the voices of young people are heard at international meetings and that they are empowered through relevant capacity development, networking and skills building opportunities. To date, the IAS has supported four cohorts of Youth Champions and organized four Youth Ambassador programmes (AIDS 2016, IAS 2017, AIDS 2018 and IAS 2019).

The Youth Voices campaign is expanding its regional and thematic foci to work with young people in Latin America and the Caribbean. New HIV infections are rising amongst young people and key populations in Latin America, and the Caribbean has the highest prevalence of HIV outside of sub-Saharan Africa. Funding is limited especially for young people in the response to HIV in the region, and the IAS would like to leverage the success we have had with the Youth Voices programme to support young people to be more visible and effective in the HIV response in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## **YOUTH CHAMPION SEED-GRANT PROGRAMME**

In 2017, the IAS Youth Voices campaign supported 13 “[Youth Champions](#)” in sub-Saharan Africa to gain a better understanding of how, when, where and what kind of HIV services young people living with HIV and young people from key populations want to receive. In 2018, the IAS Youth Voices campaign supported a further five “[Youth Champions](#)” in sub-Saharan Africa to develop or strengthen, in partnership with an HIV service provider/clinic, youth-friendly HIV services in their communities and three Youth Champions from central and eastern Europe to scale up a project working with young key populations.

**Building on this momentum, the IAS is offering five grants to support young people living with and affected by HIV from Latin America or the Caribbean to develop or strengthen an HIV-related advocacy project.**

## **GRANT DETAILS**

**Number of grants available:** 5

**Applications deadline:** 15 September 2019

**Length of grant:** 15 months

The IAS will support a new cohort of five Latin American and Caribbean Youth Champions with seed grants to scale up HIV-related advocacy projects. Each Youth Champion will be affiliated with and logistically supported by an organization based in the region working in HIV and/or SRHR or other related areas, with each project responding to a locally defined need.

Grant administration will be delegated to the host organization with which the Youth Champion is affiliated. The host organization will be responsible for mentoring the Youth Champion and supporting them to build capacity in monitoring and evaluation, report writing and communications. The funding is inclusive of all proposed advocacy activities and any contribution to the honorarium or salary paid to the Youth Champion.

### **Selected Youth Champions will be awarded:**

- US\$15,000 seed-grant to scale up an HIV-related advocacy project over a period of 15 months (October 2019-December 2020)
- Travel expenses to San Francisco and Oakland for the 23<sup>rd</sup> International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020), the largest global health conference in the world
- Capacity building in monitoring and evaluation, reporting and communications and networking opportunities
- Inclusion in the AIDS 2020 Youth Ambassador Programme
- Opportunity to host a collaborative workshop at AIDS 2020.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The Youth Champion must:

- Be from Latin America or the Caribbean
- Be connected to an organisation who is willing and able to provide mentorship and logistical support for the proposed Youth Champion’s project
- Be between 18 and 30 (and ideally under 25)



- Agree to be featured in IAS digital media (see [examples](#))
- Be willing to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> International AIDS Conference in San Francisco and Oakland, USA, 6-10 July 2020.

The host organization must:

- Be willing to actively mentor the Youth Champion
- Be willing to logistically support their Youth Champion in the day-to-day aspects of the implementation of their advocacy project
- Be able and willing to report and communicate with the IAS in English.

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DETAILS

Applications will ONLY be accepted through our [online application system](#). Applications must include:

From the applicant (Youth Champion and their host organization)

- ✓ A maximum three-page (excluding budget) project proposal including:
  - Project background, including context and project need
  - Project objectives
  - Timeline and activities planned
  - Project deliverables
  - How the project will involve young people
  - Tentative plan for monitoring and evaluation
  - Plan for social media promotion
  - Budget (total budget for proposals should not exceed \$15,000 USD).

From the proposed Youth Champion

- ✓ A maximum two-page curriculum vitae including educational background, volunteer and work experience as well as involvement with the host organization
- ✓ Response to the following questions in the online submission form (*maximum 200 words each*)
  - What is your motivation to become a Youth Champion?
  - Describe the three personal achievements that you are most proud of?
  - How do you think HIV youth advocacy can be scaled up in your region?
  - If selected, how will you use the skills you gain through the Youth Voices seed-grant programme?

**Please note:** As the host organization is required to have a working knowledge of English, all applications must be submitted in English. Host organisations should therefore support their proposed Youth Champion and translate their answers to the selection questions.



From the host organization of the proposed Youth Champion

- ✓ A maximum two-page letter of support for the proposed Youth Champion that includes the following:
  - Why you are supporting the proposed Youth Champion
  - How the proposed Youth Champion will benefit from the programme
  - Demonstrable working knowledge of English
  - Stated commitment and mentorship plan outlining how the organization would support the proposed Youth Champion in his/her work.
- ✓ A maximum two-page overview from the proposed host organization outlining the organization's vision, mission and areas of work and how they work with young people.

Proposals must be received via the [online application system](#) by **15 September 2019**.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection of applications will be based on the below listed criteria.

- Project sustainability
- Community impact
- Meaningful youth engagement
- Meaningful involvement of key and vulnerable populations
- Leadership qualities of the proposed Youth Champion
- The benefit of the programme to the proposed Youth Champion
- Organizational capacity to mentor and logistically support the Youth Champion and work with IAS in English.

### **REVIEW AND OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS**

Once the call for applications has closed, the Youth Voices Grant Committee will review each application and score it based on how successfully the applicant has met the selection criteria. Each application will be reviewed by three people – one person from Latin America and the Caribbean, one current Youth Champion and one IAS representative – and an average score taken across the three reviews. The top scoring applications will then go through to the next round where they will be discussed in depth with the Youth Voices Grant Committee at which point they will vote for their top five applications.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their submission by early October.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO KEEP IN MIND**

#### **Language**

Given the strong track record the Youth Voices campaign has of working in the English language, and that we plan to build for success so that we can work with other regions and languages in the future, where possible, we will work with a host organization that has a good



working level of English. As a first step for this expansion to work in language(s) other than English, all online content and project materials produced will be translated into the appropriate language (e.g. Spanish, Portuguese, Creole, Patois or French).

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

Experiential education is a core component of the Youth Champion seed grant programme and thus, in an effort to monitor and evaluate (M&E) progress in tandem with capacity building and skills training, the IAS will support the Youth Champions in the design, development and implementation of an M&E data plan tailored to their project. This will include working with the Youth Champions in the development of quantitative and qualitative indicators, collection of baseline data and interview techniques to monitor progress of each individual project. The host organization is expected to support these efforts.

### **Social Media**

In recognition of the key role online technology plays in advocacy, the IAS will support the Youth Champions to develop appropriate social media channels to showcase their projects and share progress with their peers. This will include a webinar providing social media training and supporting the development of tailored social media strategies for each Youth Champion at the outset of their project. The aim of the training will be to show the many different ways and opportunities that young people can join the HIV response on different levels, on social media, in their local communities, at work and in global advocacy forums. The Youth Champions will then be able to operationalize their learnings when developing their social media strategy, the process and review of which will be supported by Youth Voices. The host organization is expected to support these efforts.

### **Mentorship**

Grants will be allocated to five regionally-based organizations to support their proposed Youth Champion in the implementation of an advocacy project. The selected organizations will be responsible for mentoring and logistically supporting their Youth Champion in the day-to-day aspects of the implementation of their advocacy project.

### **QUESTIONS?**

Any questions or queries related to this call for submissions should be addressed to [YouthVoices@iasociety.org](mailto:YouthVoices@iasociety.org).