YOUTH ACTION CHALLENGE SEASON 5 FACTSHEET

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ABOUT YOUTH ACTION CHALLENGE

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The Youth Action Challenge (YAC) is a key thrust of the SG Youth Action Plan (SG YAP), organised in partnership with Citi Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through their Youth Co:Lab initiative.

It empowers youth to champion ground-up initiatives in partnership with the government, businesses and community organisations, to achieve youth's vision for Singapore in 2025.

The YAC provides the opportunity for youth to turn their ideas into reality through curated workshops, mentorship and guidance from experienced industry professionals.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Singaporean and Singapore Permanent Resident (PR)*
- Youth aged 15 to 35 years old
- Individuals / informal ground-up groups / young non-profit or social enterprises (< 2 years from incorporation as a registered entity)
- Priority will be given to first-time YAC applicants.
- Past YAC participants who have not completed their past YAC project will not be eligible to take part in this YAC Season 5

*Foreigners are welcome to join, but participating teams should comprise a majority of Singaporean or Singapore PR youth.

THEMES, SUB-THEMES & CHALLENGE STATEMENTS

The 5th season of YAC will focus on the following four themes and sub-themes, with a focus on the challenge statements identified below:

Caring & Inclusive Society	Intergenerational Bonding	• How might we equip youths with the knowledge and resources to enable purposeful living among seniors and persons with dementia? • How might we encourage youths to take action in supporting seniors and persons with dementia within their local communities?
	Caring for Caregivers	• How might we equip youths to learn more about caregiving and mental wellbeing? • How might we encourage youth to be more involved in discussions about caregiving so that caregivers can be better supported through their journey?
Food Security (Environment & Sustainability)	-	• How might we encourage the society to choose local produce?
Well-being & Resilience	Financial Literacy	• How might we encourage and support youths to plan their finances and act on their plans?
	Healthy living	• How might we make healthy living exciting and accessible for youths, leveraging digital platforms?
Digital Inclusion & Safety	-	• How might we build a digitally inclusive society for our community (youths, parents, older generation / disadvantaged groups / caregivers) to keep up to date with the ever-changing digital landscape, online trends, and threats (e.g. online sexual grooming, cyberbullying, online harassment)?

THE JOURNEY

Participants will go through a 4-month journey from October 2023 to January 2024 (key programme dates in table on subsequent pages).

They will get to (i) learn about the landscape, policy context and gaps for the respective themes, (ii) pick up useful tools and frameworks to help them ideate and evaluate potential ideas, and (iii) be provided resources, networks and up to $50,000 in grants to implement their ideas. All teams will have access to mentors for a one-year period.

Oct 2023	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Sep 2024	Jun 2025

YAC Programme & Mentorship

Participatory Budgeting Exercise

Post-programme Mentorship

Project Implementation

THE JOURNEY

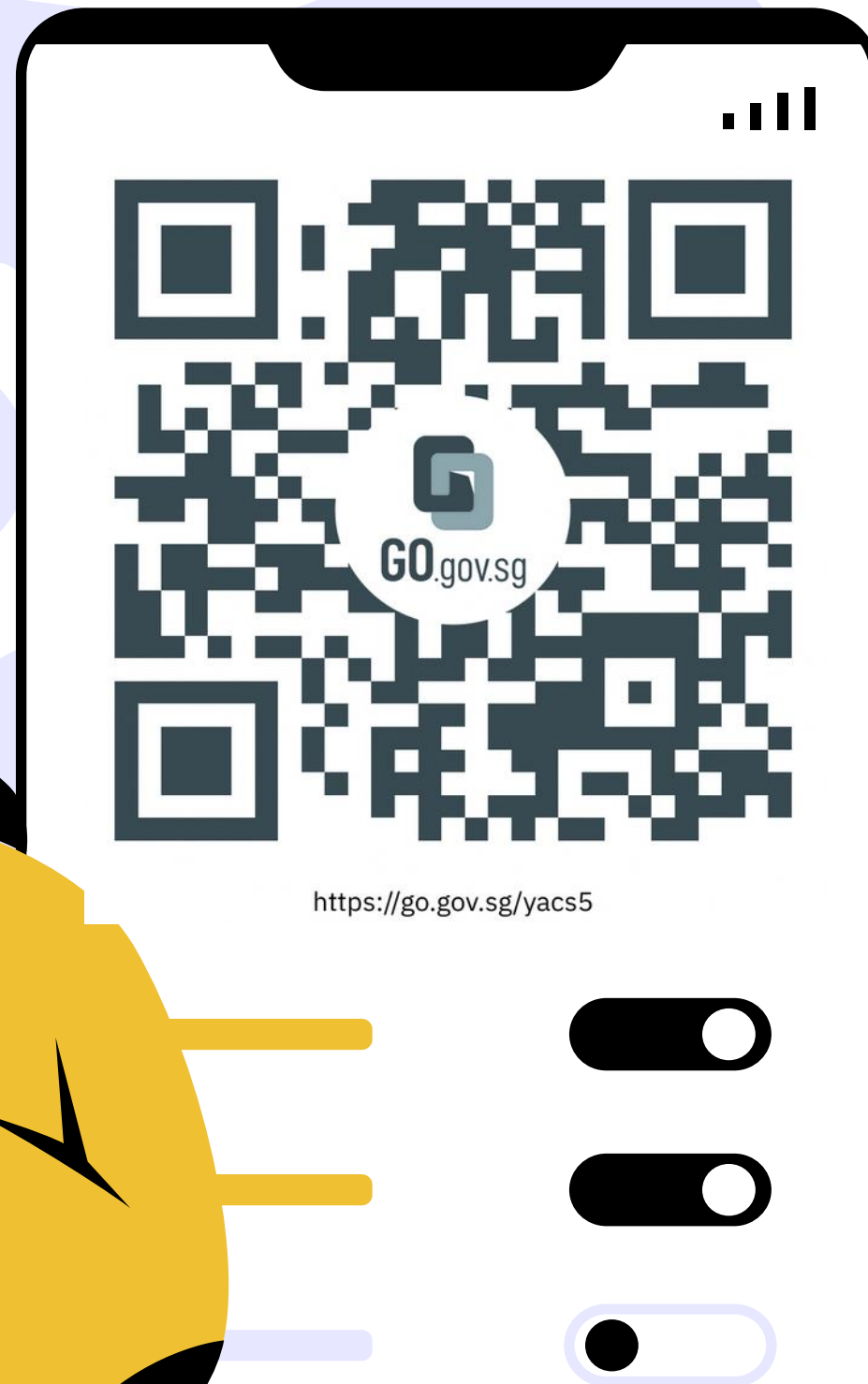| Programme	What to Expect	Date & Time	Modality
*Context Setting	Understand the issue, policy context and gaps	7 October 2023, 10am – 1pm • Caring & Inclusive Society • Food Security (Environment & Sustainability) 7 October 2023, 3pm – 6pm • Well-being & Resilience • Digital Inclusion & Safety	In-person Session
Networking & Team Formation (Part 1)	A networking session to get to know other participants and form teams if you have not	14 October 2023, 10am – 1pm	In-person Session
Networking & Team Formation (Part 2)	Another chance to network with other participants and form teams if you have not	17 October 2023, 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Virtual Session
*Design Thinking Workshop	Learn the principles of design thinking and apply to your project	21 October 2023, 10am – 1pm	Virtual Session
*Logic Model Workshop	Learn how to build a logic model and use it as a tool to evaluate your project	28 October 2023, 10am – 1pm	Virtual Session
Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship	Learn how to create positive change while building a sustainable business	1 November 2023, 7.30pm – 9.30pm	Virtual Session
*Consult Clinic	Get feedback and advice from industry professionals	4 November 2023, 10am – 1pm	Virtual Session
*Mid-point Sharing	Mid-point progress check-in for all teams with peer-learning and collaboration opportunities	18 November 2023, time TBC	In-person Session

*Mandatory Session

THE JOURNEY

Programme	What to Expect	Date & Time	Modality
*Storypitching Masterclass	Learn how to craft a compelling pitch	9 December 2023, 10am – 1pm	In-person Session
1-1 Pitch Coaching Sessions	Refine your pitch deck with personalised coaching	11 December 2023 to 5 January 2024	At team's preferred time slot
*Final Open Mic	Pitch your ideas for funding	27 January 2024, time TBC • Caring & Inclusive Society • Food Security (Environment & Sustainability) 28 January 2024, time TBC • Well-being & Resilience • Digital Inclusion & Safety	In-person Session
Facilitated Participatory Budgeting Exercise	Teams that are awarded a grant at the Final Open Mic and require additional funding will take part in a Participatory Budgeting exercise to receive additional funding.	17 February 2024	In-person Session
Online Participatory Budgeting Exercise	Teams that are awarded a grant at the Final Open Mic and require additional funding will take part in a Participatory Budgeting exercise to receive additional funding.	17 February – 2 March 2024	Online Exercise
Mentorship	Up to 12-month mentorship for teams that require additional support and guidance during planning and project implementation phase	October 2023 – September 2024	At team's preferred time slot

*Mandatory Session

REGISTRATION

https://go.gov.sg/yacs5

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Registration will commence on 3 August 2023 and will close on <u>13 September 2023, 11.59pm</u>.

You are welcome to sign up with or without a group. If you are signing up with your group, do note that all group members are expected to fill up the registration form.

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Scan the QR code to <u>sign-up</u> today! Do register early to secure a spot!

FAQS

- PARTICIPATION
- PROGRAMME
- EVALUATION
- EXECUTION
- YOUTH CO:LAB

Q
A

PARTICIPATION

Q1: Who may participate in the Youth Action Challenge?

The Youth Action Challenge (YAC) is open to Singaporean and Singapore Permanent Resident (PR) youth aged 15 to 35 years old. Foreigners are welcome to join, but participating teams should comprise a majority of Singaporean or Singapore PR youth. Priority will be given to first-time YAC applicants and past YAC participants who have not completed their past YAC project will not be eligible to take part in YAC Season 5.

The YAC is designed for informal ground-up groups and young non-profit/social enterprises (less than two years from incorporation as a registered entity). Mature organisations that have been established for more than two years may instead contact the National Youth Council (NYC) at Partnership_Enquiries@nyc.gov.sg for partnership opportunities and support outside of the YAC.

Q2: I was a past participant of the Youth Action Challenge. Can I still join YAC Season 5?

As YAC is a 4-month incubator programme, priority will be given to first-time YAC applicants as we hope to equip as many youths as possible with the relevant skills that you have also gotten from your time at YAC. However, if you have a burning idea for this year's theme, we welcome past participants who have already completed their YAC projects to apply.

PARTICIPATION

Q3: Can I sign up for more than one thematic track?

There is no need to sign up for more than one track as all, but one, sessions will be the same. The only difference lies in the first Context Setting session where speakers will be invited to do an in-depth sharing on each theme. The Context Setting sessions will be recorded and uploaded online, so you will be able to access other themes' sessions as well.

Q4: Must I already have a team in order to join?

No, you do not need to form a team before registering. We will be facilitating team formations and networking with other participants on 14 October 2023 and 17 October 2023.

Q5: Can I sign up as a team if I already have one?

Definitely! Please get everyone in your team to register individually so that we have everyone's details.

PROGRAMME

Q6: What can I look forward to in YAC Season 5?

You can look forward to a 4-month incubator programme and up to $50,000 in grants to support your ideas. The 4-month programme includes interactive context setting session by agency representatives on the existing landscape, consult clinics with industry professionals from the people, public and private (3P) sectors, mentorship to further strengthen your project, pitch workshop to learn how to deliver an effective pitch through creative storytelling, and many more. More details can be found on page 2.

Q7: Do I have to attend the Networking and Team Formation sessions if I already have a team?

While you may not need to recruit new members, you and your team are still encouraged to attend the session on 14 October 2023. The purpose of this session is for participants to get to know others outside of their teams and exchange ideas or expertise. We have seen beautiful friendships and collaborations blossoming from networking sessions in past seasons. Do consider joining.

PROGRAMME

Q8: Who and where are the industry professionals from?

They come from the people, public and private (3P) sectors and bring with them varied expertise ranging from business development, marketing, IT, policy and on-the-ground community experience, among others. These professionals are carefully selected based on their professional and volunteer/community experience and are mainly in mid to senior level management positions. Past consultants and mentors who have participated in previous seasons of the YAC include Richard Koh (Chief Technology Officer, Microsoft Singapore) and Alin Dobrea (Head of Marketing Strategy, Marketing Solutions and Partnerships, Zalora).

Q9: If I am unable to attend some of the sessions, can I still participate?

You are required to attend all the mandatory sessions listed below. For the non-mandatory sessions, at least 50% of the team should be present.

A $150 Grab voucher will be given to participants who attend all [1]mandatory sessions to cover the costs incurred because of your participation in the programme (e.g. transport and meals for team meetings, research costs).

As the YAC is intended to support youth to take action and realise their ideas, we expect all participating teams to not only commit to attending the sessions, but also implementing the projects subsequently after the final pitch in January 2024.

Programme	Date & Time	
[2]Context Setting	7 October 2023, 10am – 1pm: Caring & Inclusive Society / Food Security (Environment & Sustainability)	7 October 2023, 3pm – 6pm: Well-being & Resilience / Digital Inclusion & Safety
Design Thinking Workshop	21 October 2023, 10am – 1pm	
Logic Model Workshop	28 October 2023, 10am – 1pm	
Consult Clinic	4 November 2023, 10am – 1pm	
Mid-point Sharing	18 November 2023, time TBC	
Storypitching Masterclass	9 December 2023, 10am – 1pm	
Final Open Mic	27 January 2024, time TBC: Caring & Inclusive Society / Food Security (Environment & Sustainability)	28 January 2024, time TBC: Well-being & Resilience / Digital Inclusion & Safety

[1]*You must attend at least 80% of each mandatory session to qualify (e.g. if the session is scheduled for 2 hours, you have to attend at least 1h 40 minutes).*
[2]*You are required to attend the Context Setting session in order to be part of the YAC.*

PROGRAMME

Q10: How big should each team be?

Each team should comprise 3 to 5 members.

Q11: Can I work on my project alone?

Each team should have a minimum of 3 members. If you are unsuccessful in forming a team after the Team Formation sessions, you are encouraged to join other teams or invite your friends to join you by getting them to register for the YAC by 19 October 2023. Please note that they will need to be able to attend the mandatory sessions and commit to implementing the project. Please inform NYC if you have friends joining your team after the Team Formation sessions. The list of team members must be finalised by 19 October 2023.

Q12: Can I change my team halfway?

Any change to the team members should be done before 19 October 2023.

Q13: Can I change themes halfway?

Yes, you may, though it is not encouraged. You may instead consider scoping your project to also address another theme's challenge statement, if relevant.

EVALUATION

Q14: What are the criteria by which the project proposals will be assessed?

The ideas will be assessed based on the extent to which the team has validated the identified problem and idea (30%), feasibility (30%) and potential impact of the idea (25%), as well as how innovative the solution is (15%).

Teams that are gunning to be selected as the Youth Co:Lab Champion will additionally be assessed on their financial viability and sustainability plan. This has no bearing on the YAC grant amount, but will be considered in the selection of the Youth Co:Lab champion, who will be nominated to represent Singapore in the annual Youth Co:Lab Regional Summit.

Q15: How is the grant awarded?

All teams will pitch their ideas at the Final Open Mic on 27/28 January 2024 to a panel of judges, who will decide the grant amount awarded to each team. The grant amount awarded will be based on the four criteria set out in Q14: feasibility, potential impact, innovativeness, and extent to which the team has validated the problem and idea. Judges will also consider the requested budget for each team in assessing the grant amount. Teams stand to receive $5,000, $20,000 and $50,000 grants at the Final Open Mic, depending on the merits of the project. As the YAC is not a competition, there is no limit to the number of teams that can be awarded at each grant tier.

EVALUATION

Q16: If we do not get our requested budget, will we be able to ask for more funding?

Teams that are awarded a grant at the Final Open Mic will have the option to take part in a [3]Participatory Budgeting exercise and stand a chance to receive additional funding allocated by non-YAC youth population. Participatory budgeting is a civic engagement tool that directly involves citizens in deciding how to spend a defined sum of public money. It allows citizens to identify, discuss and prioritise public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions on how money is spent. The total combined funding received from the Final Open Mic and Participatory Budgeting exercise will be no more than $70,000.

[3]*Participatory Budgeting exercise is only available for teams who did not receive the amount they have requested from the panel of judges. The Participatory Budgeting exercise will be done in two parts – (i) a Facilitated Participated Budgeting exercise which will involve pitching your project to a group of Youth Panel, and (ii) an Online Participatory Budgeting exercise targeted at the general youth population. More details will be shared in due time.*

EXECUTION

Q17: When and how will the grant be disbursed?

The grant will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis upon project completion. For projects awarded with grants of more than $10,000, the grant will be disbursed in two or more tranches, based on the completion of agreed milestones. A partial upfront disbursement will be given to projects awarded with more than $10,000 grants.

Q18: What does the grant cover and not cover?

The grant covers all project-related expenses incurred after the pitch on 27/28 January 2024, except the following:

- Gifts (including goodie bags for project beneficiaries), prizes & tokens of appreciation

- Awards (e.g. trophies, medals, etc.)

- Fixed assets and overhead expenses (e.g. printer, office space, furniture)

- Payment to team members

- Sponsorship or grants given to a third party (e.g. to sponsor a group of beneficiaries to attend a course)

- Organisational-strengthening initiatives

Teams will be required to submit a budget with their projected expenses. NYC will advise accordingly on which teams can be supported. The grant covers the supported project expenses in full, capped at the approved grant amount.

Q19: What is the timeframe for the project?

All teams will have to implement their projects and utilise the grant by June 2025. You are encouraged to plan for sustainability in the long term, but scope your project and budget based on a one-year timeframe.

YOUTH CO:LAB

Q20: What is the Youth Co:Lab?

Youth Co:Lab (www.youthcolab.org/about) positions young people front and center in order to solve the region's most pressing challenges. Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth, so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Youth Co:Lab has been implemented in 28 countries and territories across Asia Pacific.

Q21: How is NYC collaborating with the Youth Co:Lab?

YAC is organised by NYC and MCCY in partnership with Youth Co:Lab, which is co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation. Youth Co:Lab works together with the NYC and MCCY team and support on programming, expertise, resources and knowledge. The support includes access to mentors, speakers, domain experts and the overall network of social entrepreneurship. All participants of the YAC will also have access to the comprehensive Youth Co:Lab Springboard Programme, an online learning platform that provides ongoing support for young SDG innovators, aiming to scale youth-led social enterprises. Youth Co:Lab will also support aspiring social entrepreneurs by providing ad-hoc mentorship support and access to an extensive regional network of experts, consultants, mentors, investors and accelerator programmes. In addition, one team from YAC Season 5 will be selected as Youth Co:Lab champion, and will have the opportunity to represent Singapore in the Youth Co:Lab Regional Summit in mid-2024.

Q22: What is the Social Entrepreneurship (SE) track?

Teams that indicate interest to continue their journey after the YAC as social entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to join the SE track, which is coordinated by the Youth Co:Lab team. Teams in the SE track will have access to the following components, according to the maturity stage and needs of each team:

- One team to be selected as Youth Co:Lab Champion and represent Singapore in the Youth Co:Lab Regional Summit

- Long-term support (up to 1 year) from the UNDP team to build and scale their business idea and achieve financial sustainability

- Nomination to join the Regional Springboard PLUS Programme, a six-months virtual pre-accelerator programme dedicated to enhancing the investment readiness for social entrepreneurs, and addressing their business operations and management challenges when scaling their impact

- Opportunity to be featured regionally and nationally on Youth Co:Lab channels

- Access to exclusive 1-1 Consultation Sessions with high profile industry experts in areas related to marketing, budgeting, business development and technology, among others

- Exclusive access to support from other partners which could include access to co-working spaces, invitation to regional and global entrepreneurial events, access to early-stage investors, nominations to join key programmes to further develop your solution, and more