

Oaktree Youth Solidarity Fund **Call for Membership for 2025**

Who is Oaktree?

At Oaktree, we believe all young people should have the opportunity to transform their local communities to build an equitable, just and sustainable world. We exist to empower young people to take their ideas for social impact and make it a reality. We ask our young people what the biggest issue in their community is to solve, we ask them what they think the solution is and we back them by supporting them to lead sustainable development projects in their communities.

We do this in three ways ways:

1. **Resourcing** → We resource youth-led initiatives to address the problems that young people are facing in their local communities through the OYSF.
2. **Visibility and Influence** → We increase the visibility and influence of a diverse range of youth voices within the Asia–Pacific region (APAC) by providing opportunities for young people aged 18-26 in Australia to develop core skills necessary to lead, demand and create social change.
3. **Perception** → We shift perception within the Australian international development sector to see young people as valuable contributors to policy and practice discussions.

You can find out more at [Oaktree's website](#).

What is the Oaktree Youth Solidarity Fund (OYSF)?

The Oaktree Youth Solidarity Fund (OYSF) is a grant fund run by Oaktree. Through the fund, we partner with youth-led organisations from across the Asia–Pacific who are working on incredible projects to address a concern they see in their community. This way we are able to support sustainable, locally-led development initiatives.

The Oaktree Youth Solidarity Fund is founded on the principle of youth-youth solidarity, creating a movement of youth-led organisations and young people across the Asia–Pacific region to build a more equitable, just and sustainable world. At Oaktree, we recognise the unique circumstances and structural barriers many youth-led organisations experience. That's why we've worked hard to make sure the Oaktree Youth Solidarity Fund is as flexible and accessible as possible.

Rather than expecting youth organisations to change so that you can work with us, we want to meet youth organisations where they're at, and transform the way Oaktree works so that we can better support you.

Members of Oaktree's Youth Solidarity Fund are provided with:

- Untied flexible funding of up to USD \$10,000 over the grant period.
- Access to the OYSF Network: a group of young leaders from youth-led organisations, groups & grassroots movements.
- The opportunity to build solidarity and connect with other Members through mutually beneficial knowledge sharing, collaboration and technical training activities

In 2025, the Program will be offering a limited number of grants of up to USD \$10,000. These untied* grants will be used to resource a youth-led organisation that works on solving a specific problem in a local community in the Asia–Pacific region.

**Untied in this context means the funding does not require a specific project and can be used to support the organisation as a whole, e.g. supporting administrative and salary costs.*

What Are We Looking For?

Oaktree's mission is to see a world where all young people have the opportunity to transform their local communities to build an equitable, just and sustainable world. Therefore, we are seeking applications from youth led organisations who are looking to solve a particular problem in their local community.

We invite applications from all across the **Asia–Pacific region** due to its high proportion of young people, including countries such as: Indonesia, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Fiji, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Brunei, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia.

What Criteria Must Organisations Meet?

Funding will **not be provided** to:

- For-profit organisations or groups.
- Politically and/or religiously motivated activities.
- Independence movements.
- Individual support or welfare activities (e.g. individual scholarships).
- Repayment of loans, debt, or bank overdrafts.
- Any activities which contravene local, Australian, or international law (including but not limited to terrorist activities).
- Youth organisations with previous evidence of financial mismanagement.

Members are assessed based on their ability to meet the following criteria:

- Member organisations are youth-led and youth-run (youth being defined by the social context, and the organisation having a stated aim to be youth-led).
- Member organisations are community-based (focused on community development, localised, grassroots organisations).
- The member organisation has identified a problem in their local community that their proposed project/activity seeks to improve on/solve.
- Member organisations have the capacity to implement the project/activity during the funding round.
- The proposed activity contributes to broader systemic social change and allows member organisations to affect positive change in their local community or communities.
- Member organisations are diverse, and do not unfairly treat or exclude groups of people.
- Oaktree is best placed to help (and fund) the organisation based on their proposed project AND interpretation of the partnership.
- The member organisation is able to report its project/activity to Oaktree in a satisfactory manner.

In 2025, the Program will run from April 2025 to December 2025.

All organisations/groups must agree and be willing and able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with Oaktree to consolidate a partnership. The organisation must also be willing and able to sign onto Oaktree’s Code of Conduct, Child Safeguarding Policy and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy for the duration of the partnership.

**An MOU is an agreement between two or more organisations outlined in a formal document. It is not legally binding.*

Members should also be able to understand basic English and possess the necessary communication skills to interact with the OYSF Program. We encourage potential applicants with, for example, limited English or other access needs, to contact us via the email address listed below and we can explore support options for submissions together. .

How Do Organisations Apply?

Please complete the **Membership Application Form** and send it to oysf@theoaktree.org.

The application process will be conducted in accordance with the below timeline:

Friday 28th February at 11:00 am AEDT	Applications open.
Monday 31st March at 11:59pm AEDT	Applications close.
During week starting 7th April	Selection committee will shortlist applications.
During week starting 7th April	Applicants notified of application outcome.
Rolling from mid March to early April	Interviews for shortlisted applications.