# YOUTH FREEDOM FUND

## Request for Proposals (RFP)

At GSA Network, we believe that trans, queer youth and Two-Spirit (TQ2S+) of color have the power to devise their own freedom. To support this belief, the Youth Freedom Fund is dedicated to resourcing youth-led projects and campaigns that organize and advocate for safe and healthy school environments by providing awards of $500 to GSA clubs registered with our network.

We invite students who are part of GSA clubs across the country to submit innovative projects and campaigns that contribute to the movement for social change. **We emphasize the importance of a GSA Club focusing on three key areas: Gather, Support & Act**. Projects and campaigns that align with one or more of these focus areas will receive additional consideration.

### GATHER
This area is all about bringing trans and queer students together. Projects or campaigns should demonstrate how your club is building community on your campus and beyond. This could include creative membership recruitment campaigns, field trips to learn more about TQ2S+ history, or organizing events such as tabling or movie screenings.

### SUPPORT
Focused on raising awareness and promoting healing and community-care, projects or campaigns in this area should show how your club provides community support or promotes an inclusive campus environment. Ideas might include developing educational resources, forming a free closet or inviting guest speakers to your campus or club.

### ACT
This area is dedicated to activism, advocacy, and your club's vision for the future. Projects or campaigns should illustrate how your club is working to build leadership and create change on your campus. Examples might include organizing a campaign to challenge binary dress codes or book bans, creating workshops to train students and staff on racial & gender justice , or advocating for a more inclusive curriculum at your school.

Some examples of previously funded proposals include*:
- Bookclubs focused on TQ2S+ literature
- Workshops given to school community/faculty regarding TQ2S+ identity and sensitivity
- Field trips to important sights of TQ2S+ history
- Events such as Lavender Graduation Ceremonies or Queer Proms
- GSA club-related merchandise (t-shirts, stickers, pins) in order to boost visibility
- School murals or beautification projects

*This list is not exhaustive, proposals that may not mirror or align with the above examples will still be considered!

## Requirements

1. The applying GSA club must be based in a school or local community organization within the United States.
2. The application form should be completed by the GSA club President, Vice President, or Adult Advisor of an active GSA club registered with GSA Network for the current academic school year.
3. Projects should be youth-led, but a school representative must review and approve the application.

## Eligibility Checklist

- Your GSA club is based in a school or local community organization in the U.S.
- Your GSA is registered with GSA Network for the current school year (2025-2026).
- You have discussed the project with club members and received support for submission.
- Your GSA has support from a GSA Advisor or school administrator and the means to accept funds.
- You have checked with your club advisor/school administration ahead of time to ensure you comply with any pre-existing processes to receive grant funds.

## Application Process

**Step 1:** Ensure your GSA club is registered with GSA Network for the current school year. If you have not registered your GSA, you may do so here.

**Step 2:** Submit an application via our online form. The applicant must be listed as a contact for the registered GSA club. Only one project or campaign per GSA club may be submitted.

**Step 3:** After the application window has closed, your application will be reviewed by a committee of GSA Network staff.

**Step 4:** In December, you will receive an email communication notifying the contact listed in your application if your GSA has received or not received a grant award.

**Step 5:** Our finance team will provide payment instructions via email, including a request for a completed W-9, mailing address, and/or banking information.

**We look forward to receiving your inspired and community-driven proposals!**
Email development@gsanetwork.org with any questions