



Request for Proposals: UP for Change Leadership Program Curriculum Consultant

International Youth Foundation

October 2026

Background

[The International Youth Foundation®](#) (IYF®) stands by, for, and with young people. Together with local community-based organizations and a network of corporate, foundation, and multilateral partners, we connect young people with opportunities to transform their lives. We believe that educated, employed, and engaged young people possess the power to solve the world's toughest problems, and we focus our youth development efforts on three linked objectives: unlocking agency, driving economic opportunity, and making systems more inclusive.

With support from Oak Foundation, IYF is implementing the Unique Perspectives (UP) for Change program to advance more equitable and inclusive learning opportunities for young people with learning differences¹ across the US and Latin America. UP for Change centers and elevates the leadership and advocacy of young people with learning differences and those in solidarity with them through youth-led participatory approaches that surface their insights and influence systems for meaningful change.

In Spring 2027, IYF will launch a new **UP for Change Leadership Program** to engage 3–4 cohorts of young people ages 14–20 (age range subject to change) in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR). Through this approach, young people will research an issue related to learning differences and educational equity/inequity, explore how it affects them and their communities, generate insights, raise awareness, and advocate for solutions.

The UP for Change Leadership Program aims to support youth participants in further empowering themselves as leaders and changemakers, developing and strengthening skills in critical thinking, research, advocacy, project management, collaboration, communication, among others. It will also create opportunities for participants to connect their identities and lived experiences to broader social issues and explore their potential to contribute to positive change.

The program will be implemented in two phases. **Phase 1: Research** will focus on learning differences, individual and social experiences, developing research questions, engaging communities to collect and analyze data, and generating insights. **Phase 2: Action** will focus on awareness campaigns, advocacy efforts, and final showcase and learning events. The program is expected to be implemented in the United States, Mexico, and up to 2 additional

¹ People with learning differences refers to individuals who process information or learn in a way that is not considered standard or typical. This variation can include diagnosed or undiagnosed conditions such as Dyslexia, Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Dyscalculia, language impairments, and writing challenges, among others.

countries in Latin America, with a curriculum that can be adapted to different contexts while maintaining a consistent core experience.

The Leadership Program will incorporate **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** principles to promote accessible, inclusive, and meaningful learning experiences for all participants.

Scope of Work

IYF seeks a curriculum design consultant or consulting team with expertise in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), youth development, experiential, multimodal, and learner-centered education, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to collaborate with the UP for Change team in designing the curriculum for the UP for Change Leadership Program.

The consultant will work with IYF to develop a comprehensive, engaging, and accessible virtual YPAR curriculum for youth ages 14–20 (age range subject to change) across the program’s two phases, Research and Action. Since the program will be implemented across the United States, Mexico, and up to two additional countries in Latin America, the curriculum should integrate a consistent core experience while allowing meaningful contextual adaptation. The consultant will work iteratively with IYF and a Youth Advisory Board comprised of program alumni to develop, test, and refine the curriculum and supporting materials.

Responsibilities

The consultant will:

- **Collaborate with the IYF UP for Change team and Youth Advisory Board** to translate the Leadership Program’s goals, intended outcomes, and competencies into a coherent curriculum and learning experience.
- **Develop the overall curriculum framework and learning architecture**, including learning objectives, sequencing, pacing, core competencies, and progression across the program’s two phases.
- **Co-design the curriculum for Phase 1: Research**, supporting participants in exploring learning differences and social experiences, developing research questions, engaging communities, collecting and analyzing data, and generating insights. This phase will consist of an 8-month program experience (approximately April–November 2027). Sessions will primarily be held virtually, with in-person workshops in the summer.

- **Co-design the curriculum for Phase 2: Action**, supporting participants in developing and implementing awareness, learning, and advocacy efforts. This phase will consist of a 4-month program experience (approximately January to April 2028). Sessions will primarily be held virtually, with in-person awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts with the respective communities.
- **Integrate UDL principles** throughout the curriculum to promote meaningful youth participation and accessible, inclusive learning experiences for all learners.
- **Design engaging, experiential, multimodal, and learner-centered learning experiences** appropriate for youth ages 14–20, for both virtual and in-person settings.
- **Develop curriculum and facilitation materials** to support implementation, which may include facilitator guides, session plans, participant materials, activities, worksheets, presentation materials, and other learning resources.
- **Develop a contextual adaptation approach** that identifies which elements should remain consistent across countries and which can be adapted to reflect local cultural, educational, and community contexts.
- **Collaborate with IYF to review, test, and refine the curriculum**, incorporating feedback from a Youth Advisory Board.
- **Consult and advise IYF on curricular iterations throughout the first phase of the Leadership Program implementation** (2–3 hours per month for 8 months).

Consultancy Timeline & Location

This consultancy will take place between November 2026 and November 2027, and will be carried out virtually. Consultants may be located in Latin America or the United States.

Materials/Resources Available to the Consultant

IYF will provide the selected consultant with relevant information, resources, and materials to support the development of the UP for Change Leadership Program curriculum. These may include:

- UP for Change program materials and documentation, including the Leadership Program goals, intended outcomes, program structure, and relevant background information.
- Existing IYF curricula, training materials, and facilitation resources that may inform the design and development of the Leadership Program.
- Input and guidance from the IYF UP for Change team, including ongoing collaboration and feedback throughout the curriculum development process.

- Relevant feedback and insights from youth and other program stakeholders, as available and appropriate to the stage of curriculum development.
- Access to a shared Sharepoint site or other designated collaboration platform for the exchange of resources, documents, and feedback with the IYF program team.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills and Experience

The ideal consultant or consulting team will demonstrate:

- **Experience in learner-centered, experiential, multimodal curriculum and learning experience design** for youth or adolescent learners, including the ability to translate program goals and outcomes into clear learning objectives, competencies, sequences, and engaging activities.
- **Experience with or demonstrated understanding of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)** or other participatory approaches that position young people as partners in generating knowledge and identifying solutions.
- **Knowledge and practical experience applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** to curriculum and learning experience design.
- **Experience working with youth ages 14–20** or comparable adolescent and young adult populations, with a strong understanding of youth and leadership development.
- **Experience designing or adapting curricula across different cultural, educational, or geographic contexts**, particularly in the United States and/or Latin America.
- Knowledge of or experience with **learning differences, or educational or disability justice**.
- **Strong facilitation, communication, and collaboration skills**, including the ability to work effectively with youth, program teams, and diverse stakeholders. Experience working in multilingual or multicultural environments is preferred.
- **Consultants who only speak English or Spanish are eligible. IYF will cover translation services for all consultancy deliverables outside the scope of the contract.**

Budget: Final budget to be negotiated.

How to Apply

Please submit a proposal outlining the proposed activities for the project, implementation plan, a detailed budget, and the firm's qualifications (including samples of similar work) no



later than October 30th to UPforChange@iyfglobal.org. Please use the following email subject line: **Curriculum Consultant – [Insert Consultant/Firm Name]**.

Proposals can be shared in English or Spanish. For questions or additional information, please email us at UPforchange@iyfglobal.org