

## OUR VISION:

Excellent health and care for everyone,  
everywhere, every time.



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### Island Health Step Up Youth Scholarship Fund

Island Health is pleased to provide scholarship funding to youth who have participated in the Step Up Youth volunteer program. The Step Up Youth program engages youth ages 15-18 and youth leaders up to age 25 in volunteerism at Island Health facilities.

Up to \$19,000 in scholarship funding is available annually with scholarship awards ranging from \$1500 to \$3500. Successful applicants are only eligible to receive one award in their lifetime.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

In order for an applicant to receive a scholarship award, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be a youth who has participated in the Step Up Youth volunteer program for at least one cycle (fall through end of April) (the “Volunteer Program”).
- Except as noted below, the applicant must have participated in the Volunteer Program, either as a program participant or a Volunteer Team Leader, in the year the applicant submits the scholarship / award application form (the “Submission”);
  - Volunteer Program participants who are waitlisted for their preferred post-secondary program may defer Submission for up to one year. Where an applicant defers their Submission, the Submission will be considered and judged against the Submissions in the year the applicant makes the Submission;
- In the year of Submission, applicants must have graduated secondary school (grade 12 or equivalent) or be graduating secondary school (grade 12 or equivalent);
- The applicant must intend to pursue a career in healthcare and must be accepted into a program at an accredited post-secondary institution that will assist the applicant in pursuing their career in healthcare (the “University or College Program”);
- The applicant has enrolled in the University or College Program with a program start date between April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of Submission to the scholarship award and March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
- Please note that:
  - only applicants who are enrolled in full-time studies will be eligible for a \$3500 award; and
  - applicants who are enrolled in part-time or full-time studies will be eligible for a \$1500 award.
- Verification of Enrollment into the University or College Program must be provided before funds are released and may include:
  - An official letter from the post-secondary institution confirming enrollment; or
  - A voucher provided by Island Health that your post-secondary institution has stamped and signed confirming enrollment.(“Verification of Enrollment”)

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### Submission Procedure:

- The application form will be available to Volunteer Program participants no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of Submission;
- The applicant will complete the application form in full; and
- The application form will include a minimum of three questions requiring long-form answers (no more than 250 words each).

### Selection Procedure:

- Number of hours / years of volunteer service will be considered and scored, with higher numbers of hours producing a higher score;
- Answers to the long-form questions will be considered and scored by no less than 3 Volunteer Scholarship Committee members;
- When two or more submissions receive equal scores, a blind draw will determine the winner;
- When possible, priority will be given to at least one youth who self-identifies as Indigenous;
- When possible, priority will be given to at least one youth who lives in a remote / rural community (Alert Bay, Bamfield, Gold River, Kyuquot, Port Alberni, Port McNeill, Port Hardy, Port Alice, Sointula, Tofino, Tahsis, Ucleulet, Zeballos, and any youth living on an island off the coast of Vancouver Island, including the Gulf Islands and other island communities in the Island Health region);
- When possible, priority will be given to at least one Step Up Youth Volunteer Team Leader; and
- To ensure equitable allocation of the Scholarship awards across the Island Health region, awards will be distributed proportionally, based on ratio of Step Up Youth volunteers in each of four geographic areas of the region (see map at bottom of document).

### Timeline:

- Submissions will be accepted between May 15<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. Submissions received outside of those dates will not be considered;
- Announcement of scholarship winners will be made no earlier than September 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>;
- The applicant must provide Verification of Enrollment no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of the year following Submission (e.g. – if winners are announced September 15<sup>th</sup> of 2026, Verification of Enrollment must be provided to Island Health at anytime between the date of announcement in 2026 and January 15<sup>th</sup> of 2027);
- If no Verification of Enrollment (via the verification of enrollment) is provided by the deadline, a runner up may be announced as winner between January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup> of that year, with a deadline to provide Verification of Enrollment on or before February 10<sup>th</sup> of the same year; and
- All awarded funds will be distributed prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following the Submission (e.g. – applicants who are announced as an award recipient in 2026 will typically receive funds

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**Step Up and C·A·R·E**

**Step Up and LEARN**

**Step Up and LEAD**

**OUR VISION:**

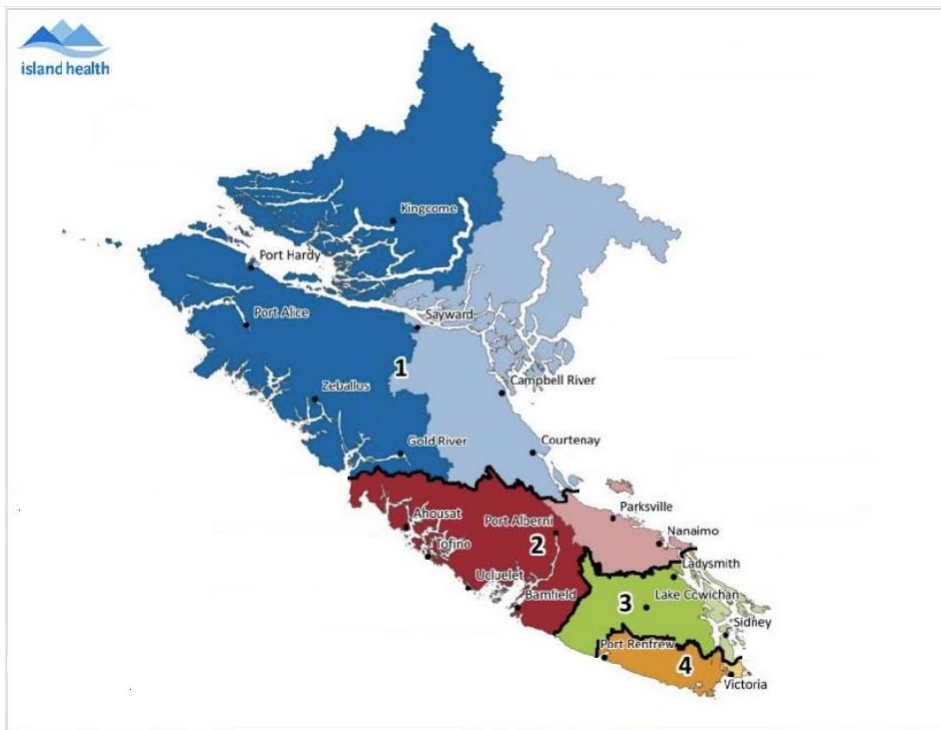
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within 4-6 weeks of submitting all required documentation. All funds will be distributed no later than end of March 2027).

Thank you for your interest in the Island Health Step Up Youth Scholarship Fund. Should you have further questions please contact [StepUpYouth@islandhealth.ca](mailto:StepUpYouth@islandhealth.ca).

**Geographic Areas of the Island Health Region:**



Area 1: Northern Region

Area 2: Central Region

Area 3: Cowichan Region

Area 4: Southern Region

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