

Call for Submissions:

**To inform the design of a research project on the social and
economic value of youth work in Ireland**

National Youth Council of Ireland

March 2025

Background to NYCI

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. Our member organisations work with, and for, up to 380,000 young people in every community in Ireland, with the support of 40,000 volunteers and 1,400 paid staff. NYCI functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations and our role as the National Representative Youth Work Organisation is recognised in legislation (Youth Work Act, 2001).

The work of NYCI is based on principles of equality, social justice and equal participation for all. In achieving these aims, the NYCI seeks the emergence of a society in which young people are valued and supported to achieve their full potential.

Introduction

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) has secured funding to commission research into the social and economic value of youth work in Ireland. The research is intended to support policy and advocacy efforts, building on momentum from the 2012 report, ["An Assessment of the Economic Value of Youth Work."](#)

The study will assess the contribution that youth work makes in economic terms but also in broader social terms* and will have specific regard to the framework of five outcomes for young people that underpins [Young Ireland: National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-28](#), namely that young people will be:

1. Active and Healthy
2. Achieving in Learning and Development
3. Safe and Protected from Harm
4. Economic Security and Opportunity
5. Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World.

In particular, it is expected that the research will demonstrate relevance to the vision and strategic objectives outlined in [Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024-2028](#).

Call for submissions

In order to inform its thinking about the design of the proposed research project and the preparation of request-for-tender specifications, NYCI invites submissions from

individuals and organisations with an interest in this topic, including those who may have a possible interest in submitting a tender in due course.

Submissions should be brief (no more than 2 pages) and should set out authors' views on the overall approach** they would recommend for assessing the social and economic value of youth work in Ireland today, based on their understanding of youth work policy, provision and practice (including infrastructure and funding arrangements)***. Reasons should be provided for recommending one approach over others.

Submissions may, if preferred, deal briefly with more than one approach, with observations on the opportunities/strengths and challenges/weaknesses associated with each, or reasons for recommending a combined approach.

Submissions may also be accompanied by copies of (or links to) previous work (either own or others') that are considered exemplary for the preparation of the proposed research.

Further Information

This is the first stage of a two-stage process. The two stages are separate. Responding to the first stage is not a requirement for participating in the second stage. Nor does it involve any commitment to participating in the second stage.

Closing Date for Submissions: **30th April 2025 5pm**

Evaluation Process: Following the closing date for submissions, the NYCI Research Advisory Group will review and evaluate all received submissions. The insights and information gathered from this stage will be used to draft the final tender document for the substantive research piece.

Stage 2: Substantive Research Tender

An open tender process will be conducted to select the researcher/team for the substantive research project. Research is expected to commence in Q3 2025.

If you have any questions about this call, you can contact Kathryn Walsh Director of Policy and Advocacy kathryn@nyci.ie

Notes:

* Submissions should state explicitly the interpretation/operationalisation of both 'economic' and 'social value' that they would recommend for the proposed research.

** 'Overall approach' here might include but is not limited to: Cost Benefit Analysis, Social Return on Investment, Theory of Change, Wellbeing Framework (or a combination of more than one).

*** For more information about the youth work sector in Ireland, see:

[Opportunities for Youth – National Youth Work Strategy](#)

[European Youth Work Agenda Ireland best practice](#)

[Youth work funding NYC1](#)