Youth Excel: Our Knowledge, Leading Change

Youth-led implementation research for youth-led development
Agenda

• Introductions of Youth Excel Team

• Overview of Youth Excel and ICONs activity

• Overview of Anchor Partner RFA

• Questions and Answer Session

• Next Steps
Session goals and norms

• Understand Youth Excel and the ICON activity
• Understanding the ICON Anchor Partner Request for Applications
• Respond to questions from the audience
Youth Excel Overview

Time Frame: 2020-2025, $30m ($15m core funding and $15m buy-ins)

A New Partnership Initiative (NPI) activity

Support YLOs/YSOs to strengthen their capacity to conduct research on their programs - increase their effectiveness

End result: Better outcomes for young people
Youth Excel addresses **strategic barriers** by building on youth assets:

1. **Insufficient research and evidence** for youth programming.

2. **Lack of youth capacity** for credible and rigorous research and for strengthening PYD programs.

3. Adult-led systems that **reinforce power differentials** and stifle youth voice and contribution.

4. **Barriers to channeling resources** to youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups.
# Youth Excel Goals and Outcomes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations will improve and</td>
<td>Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations will advance local, national, and global development agendas</td>
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<td>sustain positive outcomes for youth</td>
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| Outcome 1: Improved performance of local youth-led or youth-serving   | Increased engagement by relevant local and national stakeholders in youth-led implementation research to support PYD outcomes.       |
| partners in implementation research to strengthen PYD programming.   |                                                                                                                                               |

| Outcome 2: Increased engagement by relevant local and national        | Improved synthesis, dissemination, and integration of findings from research into programming among local YL/YSOs and other non-traditional partners. |
| stakeholders in youth-led implementation research to support PYD     |                                                                                                                                               |
| outcomes.                                                            |                                                                                                                                               |

\[\text{USAID} \quad \text{IREX}\]
Issue-Based Collaborative Network (ICON)

- Issue-Based Collaborative Network Approach - a flagship concept.

- A place-based, whole-system-in-the-room collaborative that Youth Excel will convene to collectively tackle a shared problem.

- Who are ICON participants?
  - Young leaders and youth-serving organizations with youth development programs
  - “Adult” decision-makers in private and public sectors, NGOs/CSOs, and/or higher education institutions/TVETs.
## ICONs Step-by-Step

### Step 0: Select theme and place (*6-8 weeks*)
- Shortlist places and surface priority high-level themes. *Includes desk reviews.*
- Initial stakeholder mapping
- Consultations with USAID Mission, youth, and potential stakeholders
- Finalize theme and place with USAID approval

### Step 1: Preparation (*2 months*)
- Rapid GESI Analysis & continue stakeholder mapping
- Recruit and select anchor partner
- Identify YL/YSO participants
- Participant orientation and training

### Step 2: ICON Implementation (*6-9 months*)
- **Workshop #1:** Trust-building; problem analysis, co-design learning agenda, collaborate and/or co-create on PYD and IR solutions
- **Work apart:** Micro-grants to YL/YSOs and groups to support PYD activity implementation and lean IR
- **Workshop #2:** Group data analysis, reflection, adaptation, and collaboration
- **Work apart:** Micro-grants to YL/YSOs and groups to support continued/adapted PYD activity implementation and on-going lean IR
- **Workshop 3:** Group data analysis, reflection, adaptation, and collaboration. Stakeholder equity feedback session
- **Work apart:** Micro and small grants to YL/YSOs and groups to support continued/adapted PYD activity implementation and on-going lean IR
- **Additional workshops/work apart planned for Year 2**

### Step 3: Next Steps (*2-3 months*)
- Data synthesis and ICON knowledge products
- Knowledge mobilization and/or advocacy
- Data Summit
- Linkages to other donors/partners
Kenya Place and Theme Selection

• Consultative process between IREX, Consortium partners, GYAC and USAID
• 6 Broad themes selected for Kenya (Next Slide)
• Narrowed down to 3 themes based on recommendations from USAID
• The youth informal advisory team helped us select top theme and place where the ICON activity will be implemented.
• Theme: Enhancing youth work readiness by promoting engagement between youth, Institutions of Higher Learning, Public and Private sector
• Counties: Kisumu
Request for Applications Key Dates

• Release of Call: 8th April 2021
• Information Session: 15th April 2021
• Deadline: 11:59 p.m. EAT 23rd April 2021
# RFA Key Information

## Key Request for Applications (RFA) Information and Dates

| Request Number | FY21-Youth Excel-Kenya-01  
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Issued under USAID Youth Excel Cooperative Agreement Number 7200AA20CA00024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue Date</td>
<td>April 8, 2021</td>
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| Questions      | Submit questions on an ongoing basis by April 13, 2021  
|                | To: excelyouth@irex.org  
|                | Subject: FY21-Youth Excel-Kenya-01 Questions  
|                | Check for responses posted by April 16, 2021 |
| Info Session Webinar | Attend optional webinar open to all applicants for application development support and questions.  
| Date           | April 15, 2021 from 10 am to 12 pm Kenya Time |
| At             | Zoom link: https://irexorg.zoom.us/j/92807225483?pwd=WHZaSHd4S1NpMFo5d3h6M0tSTHd5QT09  
|                | Check for webinar slides, recording, and transcript posted by April 16, 2021 |
| Application Deadline | Submit applications by filling the online application form by April 23, 2021 at 11:59 pm Kenya Time  
| At             | https://form.jotform.com/210886360821153 |
| Grant Start Date | May 2021 |
**ICON Participant high-level roles**

- **Anchor Partner:** Responsible for co-facilitating ICON with the Technical Lead, managing ICON logistics, and disbursing micro/small grants to ICON participants. Youth Excel invites local youth-led and youth-serving organization with experience implementing youth work readiness programming in Kisumu County to apply for the anchor partner role.

- **Technical Lead:** Youth Excel consortium partner responsible for co-facilitating ICON with the Anchor Partner and providing technical assistance for the ICON model.

- **ICON Participants:** formal and informal youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups learning about and addressing the ICON issue, as well as other nongovernmental, public sector, private sector, and donor stakeholders.
What is the role of the Anchor Partner

- **Co-lead the ICON**: work with the Youth Excel Technical Lead to plan and facilitate ICON workshops and provide ongoing mentorship to ICON participants.

- **Manage logistics of the ICON and related activities**: these will include in-person activities and periodic virtual check-ins.

- **Disburse grants to ICON participants**: Issue micro-grants (under $1,000) and (if approved) small grants (under $5,000) to formal and informal youth-led and youth-serving organizations and groups to support their participation in ICON activities.

- **Support monitoring and evaluation and communications**: Collect data and prepare reports as required. Support internal communications as requested by the Technical Lead.

- **Build partnerships**: Foster engagement of other relevant stakeholders and decision-makers with the ICON.
How much is available?

- **Number:** 1. *Subject to the availability of funds, Youth Excel/IREX reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.*

- **Type:** fixed amount subaward. Payments based on the negotiated budget will be made upon successful completion of project milestones. *ADS Reference 303mat Mandatory Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations apply.*

- **Amount:** USD $ 70,000 – $ 85,000. Applicants can propose the amount required for project implementation within this range. *Cost share is not required.*

- **Subgrants:** Issue small and micro-grants to ICON YLOs/YSOs participants within the allocated funding

- **Start:** May 2021

- **Length:** 9 months
Who is eligible to apply?

- Local youth-led and youth-serving organizations who meet the following minimum criteria, share Youth Excel objectives, and have experience implementing youth work readiness in Kisumu County are eligible to apply. Organizations led by or serving marginalized groups, which may include age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other identities, are encouraged to apply.

<table>
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<th>Eligible</th>
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<td>• Legally Registered, Local Kenyan Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Non-governmental organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Youth-led and/or youth-serving organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Has experience implementing youth work readiness programming in Kisumu County</td>
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- Eligible to receive USAID funding:
  - Has or willing to register for [DUNS Number](#)
  - Able to sign [ADS 303mav](#) Certifications, Assurances, Representations, and Other Statements of the Recipient
# Who is not eligible to apply?

<table>
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<th>Not Eligible</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Individuals or Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Unregistered organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• International Organizations</td>
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| Government Institutions or Political Parties |
| • Not eligible due to any of the following reasons: |
| • Appears on Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control list |
| • Has active exclusions in the System for Award Management |
| • Appears on United Nations Security Designation list |
| • Appears on U.S. Government suspended or debarred list |

| • Has received Youth Excel funding or has conflict of interest |
How will you apply?

• Complete responses in Annex 1. Fill out budget template in Attachment 1. Submit applications, including responses, letters of support, and budget, online by April 23, 2021 at 11:59 pm Kenya Time.

• At: https://form.jotform.com/210886360821153

• Note that responses cannot be saved in the online submission form. Please save your responses in a document and submit them online when they are complete.
How will applicants be selected

• Youth Excel will conduct a basic eligibility screening and disqualify applications that are not eligible for consideration.

• Any false information given will lead to automatic disqualification

• Then the Youth Excel review panel, including Youth Excel representatives and youth consultative group members, will evaluate eligible applications based on the proposed selection criteria.

• For shortlisted applications, Youth Excel will review the proposed budget for cost allowability, effectiveness and conduct a full risk assessment.
Selection Criteria

• **Technical capacity**: expertise in youth work readiness; effective facilitation approach; experience bringing multi-stakeholder groups together. *(40 Points)*

• **Financial capacity**: track record of managing donor-funded projects of similar size and scope; financial and administrative system, policies, and personnel, including capacity to disburse funds to participants and partners. *(30 Points)*

• **Partnership and collaboration**: established presence in Kisumu County; existing relationships with local partners, county officials, and other stakeholders; successful approach for community engagement in local context. *(20 Points)*

• **Commitment to inclusive positive youth development outcomes and learning**: inclusion of youth, including marginalized groups; adaptive management style for responsiveness to youth needs and priorities based on data and learning. *(10 Points)*
Q&A?

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