EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

$20 MILLION FUND TO HELP YOUTHS TURN IDEAS INTO ACTION

- *Microgrants of up to $150,000, and Micro-giving initiative empower youths to take the first step to contribute.*
- *Up to 3,000 youth-led projects to be supported through the National Youth Fund over the next five years.*

Singapore, 31 October 2026 — Youths will soon have simpler ways to take their first step towards making a difference. Launched at Impact, IRL, a new Microgrant by the National Youth Council (NYC) will enable youths to receive up to S$1,000 in funding to start a community project. The Microgrant is part of a wider commitment under the SG Youth Plan to provide **up to $20 million from the National Youth Fund to support up to 3,000 youth-led projects** over the next five years.[1] The initiative builds upon the strong interest amongst young people to contribute, with more than 350 youth teams coming forward to develop ideas and projects to address community needs at the event.

2. The National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) will also introduce a new Micro-giving initiative that will allow youths to donate from as little as S$1 to a cause they care about.

3. Impact, IRL brings together 1,000 youths and representatives from community organisations, government agencies, businesses, and philanthropic partners. Supporting the vision of a **"We First" Generation**, the event helps youths move from wanting to contribute to taking action — by starting a community project, joining a cause or making their first donation.

4. Impact, IRL was held on Saturday, 31 October 2026, at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre with Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry, as the Guest of Honour.

[1] The National Youth Fund encourages and supports ground-up youth initiatives and innovations to drive youth development and youth action through partnerships with youths.

EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

No idea is too small – Microgrant helps youths take the first step

5. According to NYC's SG Youth Plan engagements, more than 70% of youths are involved in or interested in youth ground-up projects. While many want to contribute, some are unsure how to begin; and others need connections, guidance or funding to develop their ideas.

6. Impact, IRL addresses these barriers by helping participants understand community needs, meet like-minded changemakers, and access practical guidance and resources.

7. NYC's new year-round Microgrant lowers the barrier to getting started. Through a simple application process, youths can receive up to S$1,000 to create meaningful social impact for causes that they care about.

8. Around **150 Microgrants**, totalling up to **S$150,000**, are expected to be assessed and awarded onsite. At the event, participants can get personalised advice on project ideas and grant applications at the Consult Clinic, then apply on-site through a simple process. Further details are in **Annex A**.

9. "Our young people want to have a stake in the future and take action. The Microgrant encourages every youth with an idea to be bold and take that first step. We are here to support them with the funding, mentoring, and guidance they need to make it happen," said Mr David Chua, Chief Executive Officer of NYC.

More accessible ways to give

10. NVPC's National Giving Study 2025 Youth Report found that youth participation in giving remains strong: 40% of youths currently donate. The study also found that giving is socially learned and reinforced, and that young people are more likely to move from awareness to action when participation is simple and accessible. How they give changes with life stage, shifting from in-kind contributions towards monetary giving as they grow older.

11. For youths who prefer to support an existing cause, the new Micro-giving initiative offers another accessible way to act. To make that first step easier, NVPC will introduce a Micro-giving initiative that lets donors contribute from S$1 to participating charities

through giving.sg. By lowering the entry point, the initiative aims to help more youths form lasting habits of giving and contribution, to support the causes they care about. Details are in **Annex B**.

12. "The National Giving Study 2025 Youth Report shows us that young people want to give. Whether through time, skills or even a single dollar on giving.sg, small acts of generosity can build habits that stay with us for life. By nurturing the next generation of givers today, we are building a stronger culture of giving for Singapore's future," said Mr Tony Soh, Chief Executive Officer of NVPC.

13. Further findings and practical insights from the National Giving Study 2025 Youth Report will also be presented at Impact, IRL. The full report can be found at https://nvpc.org.sg/research/ngs-2025-youth-report.

Where ideas, people and opportunities meet

14. Beyond the two new initiatives, Impact, IRL gives youths practical ways to explore causes, build connections and find a pathway to contribute. Event highlights include:

- **Action Marketplace:** Youths can develop solutions to real-world challenges through an Action Jam, receive project and grant guidance at the Consult Clinic, and apply for Microgrant funding on-site.
- **Purpose Café:** Participants can connect with changemakers and purpose-driven businesses through fireside chats and networking sessions. Recognised Companies of Good, including *City Sprouts, Vicinity Studio, S&P Global*, and *Income Insurance*, will share how they put purpose into practice.
- **The Good Store:** A pop-up where youths can customise and redeem keychains themed around the causes and ways of giving that resonate with them.
- **Wall of Opportunities:** A space for youth-led projects to find team members, volunteers, and resource contributors, and for participants to explore challenge statements across four themes supported by government agencies and community partners.

15. Impact, IRL will also connect participants to longer-term pathways for contribution beyond the event. At the Groundup Exchange, youths can learn more about Singapore's ground-up community and how *BAGUS (Building All Groundups for Success) Together* supports self-organised groups working to benefit the community. They can also

discover Giving Circles, an NVPC initiative that brings people together to provide sustained financial and social support for families in need.

16. Further details on selected programmes are in **Annex C**.

-End-

About Impact, IRL

Impact, IRL is a one-day event co-organised by the National Youth Council (NYC) and National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC). It brings together youths and partners across the community, public, private and philanthropic sectors to create opportunities for youth-led action in Singapore.

For more information, visit go.gov.sg/impactirl. To learn more about giving opportunities at Impact, IRL, visit giving.sg/content/impact-irl-2026

About the National Youth Council (NYC)

At NYC we believe in a world where young people are respected and heard and have the ability to influence and make a difference in the world. Together with our partners, we develop future-ready youth who are committed to Singapore by instilling in them a heart for service, resilience and an enterprising spirit.

About National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

NVPC is the national agency dedicated to growing a culture of volunteerism and philanthropy in Singapore. By engaging individuals, organisations, communities and leaders across the people, private and public sectors, we seek to create a more caring, inclusive, and compassionate society. Together, we envision Singapore as a City of Good, where everyone is able to give every day and everywhere (3Es), contributing their time, talent, treasure, ties and testimony (5Ts). Learn more at nvpc.org.sg.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Nicholas Tang	nicholastang@nvpc.org.sg	+65 8606 5044
Tan Jia Ling	Tan_Jia_Ling@nyc.gov.sg	+65 9863 1903
FINN Partners	NVPC@finnpartners.com	

EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

Annex A – Additional Details on the Microgrant

About the Microgrant

The Microgrant is designed to help youths take the first step from idea to action. It offers funding of up to $1,000, covering up to 100% of supported costs, through a simplified application process. Whether it's a first project or a small-scale community initiative, the Microgrant removes barriers so youths can focus on creating meaningful impact.

Who Can Apply

- Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents aged 15 to 35 years old (by birth year).
- Individuals or informal youth groups.
- Applicant must be the project lead and not applying under a registered company.

What Kinds of Projects Are Supported

- The Microgrant supports a broad range of projects that benefit the communities in Singapore.
- Projects with content creation elements, which require further vetting, should apply for NYC's Young ChangeMakers (YCM) grant subject to the grant's eligibility criteria.

How much funding can youths receive

- The Microgrant provides funding of up to 100% of the total allowable project costs or up to $1,000, whichever is lower, with the condition that the grant goes towards offsetting the project deficit. If the project receives funding from other sources, such as sponsorships or personal contributions, the Microgrant will only cover the remaining allowable project costs, up to the approved grant amount.

Grant Period and Disbursement

- Grant period is 3 months and is disbursed on a reimbursement basis upon satisfactory project completion.

When and How to Apply?

- Applications are open year-round. Youths can apply online via the OurSG Grants portal at least 2 weeks before their proposed project start date.

EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

Annex B: Additional Details on the Micro-giving Initiative

About the micro-giving initiative

As part of Impact, IRL, NVPC is introducing a micro-giving option on giving.sg that allows donors to contribute as little as S$1 to participating charities. The initiative aims to provide a simple and accessible way for individuals, including youths, to support causes they care about.

How does the micro-giving initiative work?

Donors will be able to make a contribution of less than S$10 through giving.sg. For example, donors can choose to contribute amounts such as S$1, S$2, or S$5 to participating charities.

Which charities are included?

The initiative features selected charities across a range of causes on giving.sg.

Cause Area(s) Supported	Charity Name
Environment & Sustainability	EB Impact
	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Singapore
Health & Wellbeing	Children's Cancer Foundation
	Limitless
	SHINE Children and Youth Services
	Singapore Association for Mental Health
Social Support & Inclusivity	APSN
	AWWA
	Daughters of Tomorrow
	Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation Limited
	MINDS
	Rainbow Centre
Youth	Beyond Social Services
	Fei Yue Community Services
	Halogen
	MEMBINA Community
	Singapore Repertory Theatre
	TOUCH Community Services
	YMCA

EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

Annex C: Additional Details on Selected Programmes at Impact, IRL

Action Marketplace
Open: 10.00am to 6.00pm

A one-stop floor to discover real-world challenges, connect with ecosystem partners, and see youth-led projects in action. Activities include:

- Action Jam: a workshop for youths to come together and brainstorm solutions to real-world challenges, developing ideas or projects to take action toward a cause they care about.
- Consult Clinic: an opportunity for youths to get focused, one-on-one guidance from experienced consultants and NYC Partnership Officers on their project ideas or grant application.
- Participatory Budgeting Exercise: a discussion forum for youths to help bring youth-led ideas to life by casting their vote to provide additional funding for original projects.
- Microgrant Applications: On-site applications for a new Microgrant designed to help youths take the first step from idea to action, offering funding of up to S$1,000 to support youth-led projects.

Purpose Café
Venue: Hibiscus Junior Ballroom | Open: 10.00am to 6.00pm

One of the three themed cafés at Impact, IRL, the Purpose Café is a dedicated platform for youths to learn about the diverse ways they can create impact, whether as an individual, a group, or through their careers.

What are the activities taking place within the Purpose Café?

1. The Purpose Dialogues – Three interactive fireside chats with representatives from recognised Companies of Good, showcasing how how youths can drive impact while building a meaningful career.

    - Session 1: 1.30pm – 2.00pm

      Designing and Running Initiatives to Strengthen Communities
      Featuring Ian Sim, City Sprouts

    - Session 2: 2.30pm – 3.00pm

Using Entrepreneurship to Drive Positive Change
Featuring Kevin Ng & Junny Yap, Vicinity Studio

- Session 3: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

  Creating Impact Within Organisations
  Featuring Gurvinder aka Sunny, S&P Global & Elaine, Income Insurance

2. Refreshment booths by recognised Companies of Good Bettr Barista, Delcie's Desserts and Cakes, and Swensen's offer networking spaces for youths to connect with like-minded changemakers and purpose-driven businesses.

The Good Store
Venue: Hibiscus Junior Ballroom | Open: 10.00am to 6.00pm

Youths can customise and redeem personalised keychains, themed according to causes they resonate with and different ways of giving, such as NVPC's 5Ts – Time, Talent, Treasure, Testimony, or Ties. Youths are encouraged to take photos with the keychains and share them on social media, as a way of expressing the causes they care about and inviting their peers to do the same.

How can youths redeem the keychains?
Participants must register for a giving.sg account and have it verified by the store ambassador. The registration and redemption process is free of charge.

Panel Discussion – Doing Good: The Part Nobody Talks About
Venue: Jamine Ballroom | Time: 10.15am to 11.00am

The panel discussion examines the uncertainty and challenges behind doing good and aims to equip 200 youths with practical pathways to action. During the session, the panellists will share about the motivations, challenges, and takeaways behind their personal journeys towards creating impact.

Who are the panellists?

- Kong Man Jing (also known as BioGirl MJ), Co-Founder, Just Keep Thinking
- Lucas Saw, Founder, Talking Toes
- Nicole Pang, Head of People and Talent Development, Impart
- Matilda Leong, Head, Pre-Charities & Groundup Partnerships, NVPC
- Moderator: Yuvan Mohan, Country Head of Corporate Affairs, Lalamove Singapore

EMBARGOED TILL 31 OCTOBER 2026
(AFTER SMS LOW'S SPEECH)

Workshop – Turning Intent into Impact **Venue: Heliconia Junior Ballroom | Time: 11.30am to 1.30pm (Session 1) and 2.30pm to 4.30pm (Session 2)**
Led by Kuik Shiao-Yin, Executive Director of Common Ground, the workshop aims to engage 400 youths in identifying issues they care about and designing groundup projects or crowdfunding initiatives to bring their ideas to life. Participants will take part in interactive discussions, role-play and personal reflection, and learn how to apply frameworks such as the Theory of Change to their initiative or project.

Groundup Exchange **Venue: Heliconia Junior Ballroom | Time: 2.30pm to 3.45pm**
The Groundup Exchange brings together Singapore's groundup community, comprising self-organised groups voluntarily working to benefit the community. Led by NVPC's BAGUS (Building All Groundups for Success) Together, the session enables youth-led groundups to connect with fellow changemakers, build networks, exchange ideas, and discover partnership opportunities.