**2025 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award**

**Rules and Guidelines**

*\*Dates and details are subject to change. These guidelines will be updated with the most recent information. Last update: 2 May 2024*

**What is the 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award?**

The organizers of the 2025 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) are proud to support the fifth **ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award**, formerly known as the *Youth Travel Award* or *Youth Leader Video Contest*. The ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award aims to amplify and highlight the voices of young leaders in the family planning and SRHR field through active planning and participation in the 2025 ICFP. Through the ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award, young leaders in the field of family planning and/or sexual and reproductive health and rights (SHRH) or adolescent health aged 18-35 years old are invited to submit creative short videos that highlight youth perspectives, experiences, and voices in family planning.

Young leader selected for the 2025 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award will play an essential role in providing a youth perspective, voice, and experience to the conference. Young leaders who are awarded the 2025 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award will also be fully funded to attend the ICFP conference and the Youth Summit in Bogotá, Colombia from 1 to 6 November 2025, including registration, travel, and accommodation costs. Awardees will be integrated into the planning of the ICFP, including essential participation in the ICFP subcommittee(s) of their choice, engagement as speakers and/or moderators at sessions during the Youth Summit and ICFP, reporting on major happenings at the conference, and other conference engagement opportunities that will magnify the voices, perspective, and experiences of youth in the family planning and reproductive health community.

**Contest Deadline**

All entries must be submitted by **20** **May 2024, 11:59 pm EDT**.

**Eligibility**

* To participate in the *ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award* you must be between the ages of 18 and 35 on 1 November 2025. You will be required to submit a copy of your passport for age verification.
* Young leaders may only submit **one** application. Team applications are not permitted.

**Submission Requirements**

**To apply, young leaders must:**

1. Submit an online application: https://airtable.com/app1kUcDxkqUgLCjc/shrP3ih5zZT8veqyv

2. Upload a 1- to 3-minute video to YouTube or Vimeo highlighting your experience as a leader in the family planning and reproductive health field. See the video specifications section below.

Incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified and not considered for an award.

All entries must be submitted by **20 May 2024, 11:59 pm EDT**.

**Video Submission Specifications**

* The video submission **must** be at least one (1) minute in length and may not exceed three (3) minutes in length.
* The video should highlight your passion as well as experience as a leader in the family planning and reproductive health field. The video should also show your creativity and your ability to successfully convey an effective, powerful message to an audience.
* You **must** speak during the video.
* You may use photos or graphics in the video.
* The submission **must be your original work**. You, the applicant, must hold all rights to every element within your video submission, including the copyright. You may get assistance from organizations or individuals (e.g., video equipment and production help), but the actual video **must depict your unique qualifications** as a young leader.
* Please ensure clarity of video, image, and sound in the submission (for ease of viewing on multiple screen formats). Please do not use background music in the video submission, as it reduces sound clarity.
* The submission must be in English, French, or Spanish. Submissions in other languages should include English, French, or Spanish subtitles.
* In the case that you do not have access to equipment or cannot, for other reasons, create a video, please contact Youth@theICFP.org. Attempts will be made to connect you with local organizations or other sources of support.
* You may also be able to use existing material, such as previously recorded speeches as support; however, new material that specifically relates to the conference application is required and should be the focus of the video.

**Video Content Restrictions**

* The video **must not** contain material that violates the rights of others, including but not limited to privacy, publicity, and or intellectual property rights (including copyright, trademark, or patent right).
* The video **must not** contain copyrighted music, images, footage, artwork, or videos not owned by you as an applicant.
* The video **must not** contain any background music.
* The video **must not** contain inappropriate, indecent, obscene, hateful, or discriminatory materials that violate international human rights.

**Use of Submitted Videos**

The ICFP Secretariat reserves the right to use all submitted videos in any way deemed appropriate in the future, including in promotional materials. Participants in this award application accept this condition and provide ICFP the right to use their entries.

**Selection**

A selection jury consisting of members of the 2025 ICFP International Youth Subcommittee will choose the winning entries. Winners will be invited to speak, moderate, and participate in integral roles to voice youth perspectives on family planning and SRHR leading into and during the conference in Colombia.

Outstanding video submissions, whether or not from winning candidates, will be compiled and displayed at the conference and/or on the conference website. Videos that contain background music will not be displayed at the conference and/or the conference website due to editing constraints.

The selection of youth speakers and/or moderators is separate from the selection of scientific abstract presenters. That is, while ICFP welcomes applications from young researchers who have submitted individual research, advocacy and accountability, or program implementation abstracts or preformed panels, this is not a requirement for applying for the ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award.

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Submissions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

1. Clarity of family planning message
2. Ability to speak eloquently and successfully convey a clear and powerful message to an audience
3. Online application information
4. Vision for AYSRHR Advancements
5. Innovative Approaches
6. Skills and Expertise: Interest and ability to learn and contribute to the conference in meaningful ways that elevate the voices, perspectives, and experiences of youth and contribute to the forward movement of the family planning and reproductive health field.

**Application Resources**

**For questions about the application process, please contact:** **Youth@theICFP.org**

**Create a Free Account on YouTube or Vimeo Using the Links Below**

* YouTube: <http://youtube.com>
* Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com>

**Tips for Making a Video**

Vimeo Video School:

* https://vimeo.com/blog/category/video-school/video-creation
* https://vimeo.com/create/youtube

Planet Forward:

* http://www.planetforward.org/2011/07/22/how-to-make-a-cool-video-0

Kickstarter:

* https://www.kickstarter.com/blog/how-to-make-an-awesome-video

**Public Speaking Skills**

* http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7A67AB457742A4BD
* https://ed.ted.com/lessons/we-can-help-you-master-public-speaking-chris-anderson

**2025 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

*\*Dates and details are subject to change. This FAQ will be updated with the most recent information. Last update: March 15, 2025*

**Am I eligible to apply for the ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award?**

To be eligible for the ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award, **you must be between the ages of 18**–**35 on 1 November 2025**. Youth from all countries are encouraged to apply. You may only submit **one** application. Team applications are **not** permitted.

**How can I apply and where do I find more information?**

* Please visit the ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award page on the ICFP 2025 website for more information: <https://theicfp.org/trailblazer-application>
	+ All applicants are encouraged to view the full ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award guidelines, available in EN, FR, and SP (the first half of this document).
* Eligible young leaders should apply using [this online application form](https://airtable.com/app1kUcDxkqUgLCjc/shrP3ih5zZT8veqyv%C2%A0): <https://airtable.com/app1kUcDxkqUgLCjc/shrP3ih5zZT8veqyv>
* Please note that this is a video award contest as described in the application guidelines.

**What is the deadline for applications?**

The deadline for full submission of applications is **20 May 2024, 11:59 pm EDT**, including video uploading.

**If selected, how many days can I expect to spend at the conference and where?**

The ICFP 2025 Youth Summit will take place in Bogotá, Colombia on 1–3 November 2025. The full ICFP 2025 conference will take place in Bogotá, Colombia on 3–6 November 2025. Youth who are sponsored via the ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award will be expected to participate in **at least one** ICFP Subcommittee leading up to the conference, the ICFP Youth Summit, and the 2025 ICFP.

**Where can I find past examples of Youth Trailblazer videos?**

* Check out video examples from past Youth Trailblazer Award winners: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpMj6rked0qoC41ipLzBp9cmmvxnG5YJD&si=R9i4HAWr6todN0kX>
* Meet the 2022 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award winners: <https://icfp2022.org/meet-the-trailblazers/>

**What is covered if I am awarded the ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award?**

Young leaders awarded the ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award **will receive a full sponsorship to attend the ICFP conference in Bogotá, Colombia**. This includes registration to attend the ICFP Youth Summit on 1–3 November 2025 and ICFP conference on 3–6 November 2025, accommodations, and a stipend for meals.

**Will I be attending the conference in person?**

The ICFP 2025 is scheduled to take place in person in Bogotá, Colombia on 3–6 November 2025. **The 2025 ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award winners will be sponsored to attend the conference in person**. As a condition of this award, winners will be required to abide by any and all regulations set by conference organizers, including protocols related to COVID-19. The ICFP Secretariat will assist all winners, to the best of its ability, to meet any ICFP participation requirements set forth by the government of Colombia, the international travel industry, and ICFP conference organizers. If a winner is unable to abide by the regulations, they may participate in the conference virtually.

If, for any reason beyond the ICFP Secretariat’s control, the 2025 ICFP cannot take place in person, ICFP Youth Trailblazer Award winners will participate virtually in the conference.

**When will I be notified about the status of my application?**

Winners will be notified and announced in **June 2024**.

**Will I receive a certificate for my participation?**

Yes, you will receive an electronic certificate for your participation after the ICFP 2025 conference.

**The application asks me to pick from a list of skills. What if I do not fit into any of the skills listed?**

As an applicant, you have the option to choose “other” and will be able list out up to three skills you have that have to do with family planning or sexual and reproductive health and rights. If you feel you do not have enough experience but want to gain some of those skills, please explain more in the open-ended question about ICFP and your skills.

**What are ICFP subcommittees, and does it matter which one(s) I select on my application?**

The [**ICFP International Steering Committee (ISC) Subcommittees**](https://theicfp.org/subcommittee) are the organized groups of community members who plan focused ICFP events and various other conference elements on specialized topics. Youth Trailblazers join these subcommittees soon after they are formed to help plan and implement ICFP activities. Trailblazers will have the choice to hear about each subcommittee before committing to one, though the selections made on the initial Trailblazer application will be taken into consideration.

**Here is the list of the current ICFP 2025 subcommittees:**

1. Advocacy & Accountability
2. Communications
3. Demographic Dividend
4. Faith
5. Humanitarian & Crisis Settings
6. Population, Health, and Environment
7. Private Sector
8. Program Implementation
9. Scientific
10. Shifting Power and Advancing Equity in Global Health
11. Youth

**My internet/country restrictions will not allow me to upload a video on YouTube or Vimeo. How else can I send in my application?**

Please email Youth@theICFP.org explaining your situation. In extreme cases, we will accept videos via WhatsApp if all other methods fail.

**In the application form, there is a link required for the video. Does that mean you have to first upload the video on the internet?**

Yes, you must upload your submission video to the internet (**either on YouTube or Vimeo**) and share the link in your online application form. You will have to make the video publicly available or unlisted and downloadable so that when you submit the URL, we can access your video. If you create a password for your video, please let us know what the password is.

**Create a free account on YouTube or Vimeo using the links below:**

* YouTube: <http://youtube.com>
* Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com>

**What kind of video submission is required? Is it a video of the applicant talking about family planning or skits about family planning?**

The purpose of the video submission is to highlight **your experience** with family planning and sexual and reproductive health, **your creativity**, and **your ability to successfully convey an effective, powerful message** to an audience. You may use photos or other graphics, but you must also speak during the video.

The submission **must** be your original work. You, the applicant, must hold all rights to the submission including the copyright. You may get assistance from organizations or individuals (e.g., for equipment and production) but the actual video **must** depict your unique qualifications for this award.

**Check out video examples from past Youth Trailblazer Award winners here:** <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpMj6rked0qoC41ipLzBp9cmmvxnG5YJD&si=R9i4HAWr6todN0kX>

**I really want to apply but have no equipment to make a video. What do I do?**

In-depth audio/video equipment is not needed to create a high-quality, successful submission video. Applicants can use devices like mobile phones or computer webcams to film their video.

If you do not have access to equipment or cannot for other reasons create a video, please email Youth@theICFP.org. Attempts will be made to connect you with local organizations or other sources of support. You may also be able to use existing material such as recorded speeches; however, it is encouraged that new material is added that specifically relates to the conference application.

**What is the average length for the submission video?**

The average length of videos is two (2) minutes.

The video submission must be at least one (1) minute and may not exceed three (3) minutes in length**. Your video should be no more than three (3) minutes**. Please ensure clarity of video, image, and sound in the submission for ease of visibility on multiple screen types.

**What criteria is being considered in the selection of successful applicants?**

**ICFP 2025 Youth Trailblazer Award applications (including video submission) will be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

1. **Communication Skills**
* How well does the applicant communicate their message in the video?
* Are they able to convey their ideas with clarity, passion, and persuasion?
1. **Creativity and Engagement**
* How creatively does the applicant present their message in the video?
* Does the video capture the audience's attention and leave a lasting impact through innovative storytelling or presentation techniques?
1. **Showcasing Experience as a Young Leader**
* Does the video effectively showcase the applicant's experience and contributions as a youth leader in the family planning and reproductive health field?
* Do they highlight their unique experiences and accomplishments in a compelling and engaging manner?
1. **Vision for AYSRHR Advancements**
* How well does the applicant articulate their vision for advancements or changes in adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (AYSRHR) that they would like to see promoted or discussed at ICFP 2025?
* Are their ideas specific, impactful, and forward-thinking?
1. **Innovative Approaches**
* How effectively does the applicant articulate their plans to incorporate innovative approaches into their proposed contribution to the 2025 ICFP?
* Are their ideas for leveraging advancements in digital health, social media advocacy, virtual engagement, or other tools clear and impactful?
1. **Skills and Expertise**
* Does the applicant provide a clear description of the skills they believe they can bring to the 2025 ICFP?
* Are these skills relevant and aligned with the needs of the conference, such as FPNN reporting, plenary speaking, panelist roles, facilitation, storytelling, etc.?
* Do they showcase confidence in fulfilling these roles?

**I am above 35 years of age, what other options do I have to receive sponsorship to attend the conference?**

You may participate as an abstract presenter. Abstract submission guidelines will be available closer to the ICFP 2025 conference date. Subscribe to the ICFP newsletter to stay updated on the latest news and happenings (including information on topics like abstracts): <https://theicfp.org/newsletter>

**If your question has not been answered, please contact** **Youth@theICFP.org**