

ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

A Strategic Framework for Empowering Guyana's Next Generation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nearly half of Guyana's population is under 30, with youth aged 15–29 representing approximately 22.3% in 2024. The AFC envisions a Guyana where young people are empowered to become full participants in national life. This integrated strategy transforms young people into **active agents of development**—empowering them with access to housing, education, innovation, health, and participation in governance.

By prioritizing youth today, Guyana invests in inclusion, resilience, and sustainable growth. **The future is youth-led—and it starts now.**

1. Affordable Housing Access for Youth

Objective: Empower young people to own homes and start independent adult lives.

Policy Measures:

- Every youth at 18 years will receive a **FREE HOUSE LOT**.
- Establish a **Youth Housing Scheme** with mortgage ownership options and subsidized mortgages.

- Reserve a percentage of government housing allocations for **low-income and first-time young homeowners**.
- Implementation:
- Partner with CH&PA and commercial banks to develop **youth-focused mortgage packages**.
- Launch a **Youth Housing Fair** to connect youth with housing providers and financing.

2. National Broadband and Connectivity Program

Objective: Bridge the digital divide and enable access to education, work, and innovation.

Policy Measures:

- Expand broadband in rural and hinterland areas with **learning hubs and mobile digital classrooms**.
- Upgrade community ICT centres with **high-speed Wi-Fi and devices**.
- Implementation:
- Strengthen partnerships with telecoms (Wi-FiGY, E-Networks).



- Equip all secondary schools with **Wi-Fi, ICT labs, and free student data packages.**

3. Investment in Arts, Culture, Sports, and Creative Industries

Objective: Foster holistic youth development through creative expression and physical activity.

Policy Measures:

- Develop **Municipal Youth Arts and Sports Centres** in all ten regions.
- Establish **National Youth Orchestras, Dance Troupes, and Drama Companies.**
- Invest in community studios for film, music, fine arts, and fashion.
- Protect creative works via enhanced **copyright legislation.**

Implementation:

Collaborate with the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO, and private sponsors.

Enact a **Youth Creative Rights Bill.**

4. National Youth Wellness & Mental Health Clinics

Objective: Improve youth access to mental, sexual, and reproductive health services.

Policy Measures:

- Establish **youth-friendly wellness centres** in each region.
- Recruit and train mental health professionals focused on youth.
- Run **public awareness campaigns** to reduce stigma.
- Implementation:
- Integrate with Ministry of Health regional services.
- Collaborate with UNFPA and PAHO for clinic design and training.

5. Education, Scholarships, and Training

Objective: Equip youth with knowledge and skills for a modern economy.

Policy Measures:

- Provide **full scholarships** for local and

international studies.

- Expand technical and vocational training via **GSA, NATI, and GITC.**
- Integrate **TVET** into secondary school curricula with career pathways.
- Implementation:
- Create a **Scholarship Oversight Board.**
- Partner with UNESCO and CARICOM for **regional exchanges.**

6. Mentorship, Dropout Prevention & School Retention

Objective: Support vulnerable and at-risk youth to complete their education.

Policy Measures:

- Launch a **National Youth Mentorship Network.**
- Expand **after-school programmes** focused on life skills, tutoring, and psychosocial support.
- Implementation:
- Recruit trained mentors via NGOs, faith groups, and civil society.
- Use Ministry of Education data to **track and address dropouts.**

7. Justice, Protection, and Fair Treatment

Objective: Ensure youth are treated fairly, safely, and with dignity.

Policy Measures:

- Implement the **Juvenile Justice Act** with restorative practices.
- Establish **youth courts** and expand legal aid access.
- Train police and justice officials in **youth-sensitive engagement.**
- Implementation:
- Partner with UNICEF and Ministry of Legal Affairs.
- Publish **annual youth justice performance reports.**

8. Youth Engagement in Governance and Leadership

Objective: Institutionalize youth voices in national decision-making.



Policy Measures:

- Expand the **President's Youth Advisory Council (PYAC)** to include regional and Indigenous youth.
- Mandate **youth quotas** in local councils, boards, and committees.
- Launch a **paid Youth Fellowship Programme** in government ministries.
- Implementation:
- Amend the **Local Government Act** to include youth quotas.
- Host an **Annual Youth Parliament**.

9. Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Objective: Support young entrepreneurs and innovators.

Policy Measures:

- Establish **Youth Innovation Hubs** in ICT, agri-tech, and creative sectors.
- Launch a **Youth Entrepreneur Fund** with grants and mentorship.
- Provide access to **land, training, and markets** for youth in agriculture.
- Implementation:
- Coordinate with Ministry of Business, Go-Invest, DFIs.
- Link diaspora mentors to youth incubators via virtual exchanges.

10. Monitoring, Coordination, and Evaluation

Objective: Ensure accountability and relevance of youth policy.

Policy Measures:

- Create a **National Youth Development Council** with cross-sector oversight.
- Maintain **open youth data dashboards** (employment, education, health).
- Review and revise youth policy every five years.
- Implementation:
- Appoint a **Ministerial Youth Champion**.
- Partner with UNDP and ILO for technical support.

11. Support for Sustainable Agriculture

Objective: Empower youth to engage in

sustainable agriculture for food security and income.

Policy Measures:

a. Access to Land and Resources

- Launch a **Youth Agricultural Land Grant Programme** for ages 18–35.
- Provide youth access to **state and underutilized farmland**.

b. Education and Training

- Introduce **modern agriculture and agri-business** into schools.
- Provide **scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships** in agri-tech.

c. Start-Up Support

- Create a **Youth Agro-Enterprise Fund** for grants and loans.
- Support **equipment leasing** and input subsidies.

d. Innovation in Agriculture

- Promote use of **drones, hydroponics, and precision tools**.
- Develop **agriculture apps** for youth.

e. Market Access

- Establish youth-specific **markets and digital selling platforms**.
- Provide **branding and export-readiness** support.

f. Environmental Sustainability

- Train youth in **eco-friendly farming**, composting, and agroforestry.
- Align with **Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS)**.

Implementation:

- Lead Agencies: Ministries of Agriculture, Youth, Education, Go-Invest.
- Monitor progress via **annual youth advisory reviews**.
- Partner with NGOs, private sector, and international donors.

12. Inclusion of Youths in National Decision-Making

Objective: Institutionalize youth voices in all levels of government and policy-making.

Policy Measures:

a. Representation

- Mandate youth participation (ages 18–35)



- on all national boards and committees.
- Create a **National Youth Advisory Council** under the President.

b. Legislative Advocacy

- Advocate for **constitutional reform** to recognize youth as key stakeholders.
- Table a **Youth Participation Act** to formalize their roles in policymaking.

c. Civic and Leadership Training

- Introduce **civic education** and **leadership development** in schools and youth organizations.
- Provide **fellowships and workshops** for public service preparation.

d. Digital Engagement

- Develop an **e-Governance Youth Portal**.
- Promote **national youth polls** to inform government decisions.
- e. Support Youth-Led Initiatives

- Increase **funding and technical assistance** for youth NGOs.
- Encourage **co-creation of policies** with youth groups.

Implementation:

Short Term (1–2 Years):

- Establish Youth Advisory Council;
- Launch civic education;
- Begin consultations for the Youth Participation Act.

Medium Term (3–5 Years):

- Enact the Youth Participation Act;
- Institutionalize consultation mechanisms;
- Expand digital platforms.
- Long Term (5+ Years):
- Mainstream youth participation across government;
- Track progress via **Youth Inclusion Scorecard**.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

TIMEFRAME	KEY MILESTONES
0–6 Months	Youth house lot program launched; youth clinics established; PYAC expanded
6–18 Months	Broadband expansion; mentorship and scholarship programs launched; Innovation Hubs opened
18–36 Months	Youth courts operational; Copyright Bill tabled; National Arts and Sports Centres completed
Annual	Youth scorecards published; National Youth Forums hosted; Program reviews conducted

CONCLUSION

The **AFC National Youth Policy** is a **blueprint for transformation**. It positions young people not as dependents, but as **leaders, builders, and innovators**. This policy invests in youth across all sectors—from housing to health, arts to agriculture, education to entrepreneurship. It is a direct investment in Guyana's future.

**THE TIME FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP IS NOW.
AND THE AFC IS READY TO DELIVER IT.**

