

All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) Entrepreneurship Awards 2026

Call for Nominations

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), through the All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) Entrepreneurship Programme 2026, invites nominations from young African entrepreneurs across the continent whose enterprises are contributing to building the Africa we want and the vision of the Africa: My Home. My Future. campaign. The Awards seek to recognise, celebrate and support transformative youth-led enterprises that demonstrate creativity, responsible stewardship and a commitment to building regional integration in Africa.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Digital Innovation & Enterprise Award

This category recognises youth-led enterprises that harness digital technologies and innovation to improve lives, expand opportunities and address social and economic challenges. Enterprises using digital platforms, artificial intelligence, fintech, Agritech, health technology, education technology, digital automation and other emerging technologies are encouraged to apply.

2. Stewards of Creation Award

This category recognises youth-led enterprises demonstrating exceptional commitment to environmental stewardship while creating sustainable livelihoods and resilient communities. Enterprises working in renewable and clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, waste management, recycling and circular economy solutions, biodiversity conservation, water conservation, sustainable production and related areas are encouraged to apply.

3. Builders of African Unity Award

This category recognises youth-led enterprises that use entrepreneurship to promote African unity, social cohesion, regional integration, peacebuilding and cross-border collaboration. Enterprises operating across national borders, reaching multiple African countries, or demonstrating partnerships and collaborations beyond their home countries are encouraged to apply.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

The programme is open to youth-led enterprises.

Nominees must meet all of the following criteria:

Age: The entrepreneur or enterprise owner/operator is 18–35 years old.

Church Affiliation: The applicant is affiliated with the AACC through a member church or national council of churches.

Category Alignment: The enterprise aligns with at least one of the three award categories.

Social Impact: The enterprise demonstrates clear social impact or contribution to sustainable development.

Legal Status: The enterprise is legally registered, with documentation available on request.

WHAT WILL THE AWARDS OFFER?

Visibility and Networking

Shortlisted entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to showcase their enterprises to the wider AAYN community, creating opportunities for networking, collaboration and potential expansion across Africa.

Financial Award

Each award is worth USD 2,000 investment in the demonstrated business need.

Future Opportunities

Award recipients will be recognized as AACC Youth Entrepreneurship Champions and have opportunities to participate in and contribute to future youth entrepreneurship initiatives of the All Africa Conference of Churches.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Eligible entrepreneurs may nominate themselves, while other eligible persons from AACC member churches or affiliated organisations may also nominate a young entrepreneur. Applications must be submitted online and in English through the designated application platform. Applicants will be required to provide:

1. Completed online application form
2. A statement of no more than 250 words demonstrating how the enterprise aligns with the relevant award category
3. A statement of no more than 250 words explaining the enterprise's contribution to social impact and/or sustainable development
4. Certificate of registration of the enterprise
5. Introductory letter from the affiliated AACC member church or national council
6. Passport, National ID or Birth Certificate

Nomination link available at <https://aacc-awards.org/>

NOMINATION PERIOD: 16th September – 4th October 2026

For more information, see details at <https://aacc-awards.org/> and for enquiries, contact: youthcongress@aacc-ceta.org; youth@aacc-ceta.org.

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