

THE IMPACT OF THE YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE (YLAI)



Since its launch in 2015, the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship Program empowers emerging entrepreneurs from the Western Hemisphere to enable the full economic potential of the region's citizens. YLAI promotes U.S. business models, increases trade, encourages job creation, and builds lasting and sustainable networks of young entrepreneurs and business leaders across Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States.



CELEBRATING MORE THAN

1,740

YLAI ALUMNI

AND MORE THAN

60,000+

MEMBERS OF THE YLAI NETWORK, WITH ACCESS TO **25+ ONLINE COURSES**, OVER **100 INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS**, AND OVER **400 INFORMATIVE BLOGS**

FROM

37

COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND CANADA



YLAI HAS CONNECTED PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS WITH 1,250 U.S. FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENT BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN 85 CITIES ACROSS 34 STATES

THE YLAI FELLOWSHIP HAS AWARDED

156

outbound exchange grants

179

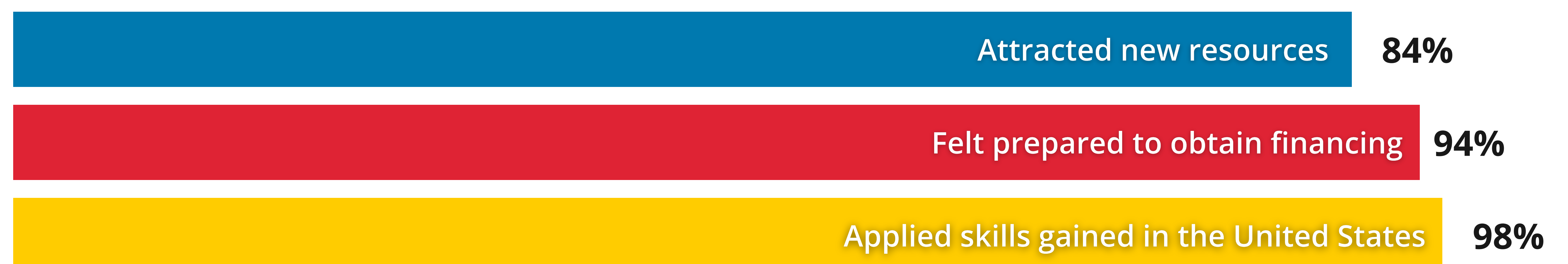
impact and innovation grants

187

professional development grants

TO FOSTER COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING BETWEEN U.S. PARTNER AND ALUMNI NETWORKS AND ALUMNI LOCAL ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, YLAI ENTREPRENEURS REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:



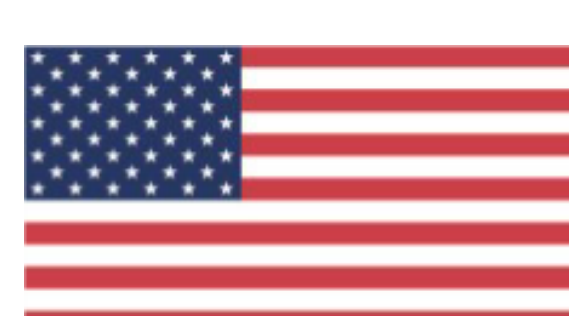
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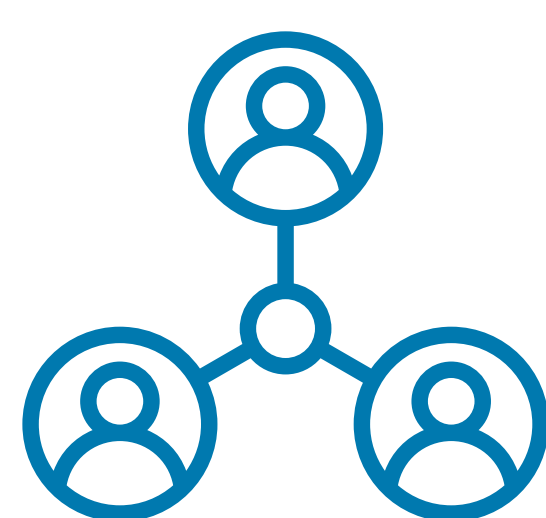


The YLAI Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX.

THE THREE PILLARS OF YLAI



The YLAI Fellowship Program is an annual exchange program for 280 emerging young entrepreneurs from 37 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, who are matched with businesses and organizations across the United States. In addition to entrepreneurial leadership training, fellows build new skills, share best practices, and forge commercial ties. YLAI alumni also have access to Outbound Exchanges, small grants, resources and events, as well as to exclusive opportunities offered by the U.S. Department of State on alumni.state.gov.



The YLAI Network is a virtual community of 60,000+ entrepreneurship-minded members from across the Americas. Network members engage with curated leadership and business development resources that highlight innovative U.S. models, policy-focused campaigns, and networking opportunities.



U.S. Embassies and Consulates organize activities with YLAI professional fellows, network members, and young leaders to support entrepreneurial ecosystems. YLAI fellows and network members are key partners for engaging with and inspiring other young leaders across the hemisphere.



It was so exhilarating to support [Fellows] along their journeys towards local, national and global impact. - 2023 Partner, San Diego

[This experience] was fantastic! it helped me better understand the challenges and opportunities in other countries. - 2018 Partner, Dallas

Through YLAI, I honed crucial skills, expanded my professional network, and gained a global perspective on leadership and innovation. [It] instilled in me a newfound confidence and sense of purpose, driving me to make a positive impact in the Americas and beyond. - 2024 Fellow, Ecuador

There is nothing that can replace being in a community of similarly dedicated entrepreneurial community. [...] Truly this [YLAI] was life-changing. - 2024 Fellow, Canada

This incredible 6 week experience has given me invaluable knowledge, immense personal growth, and support systems to last me a lifetime. - 2023 Fellow, Jamaica

YLAI brought me friends, business partners, clients, and a family. It changed my life. - 2016 Fellow, Brazil