

Civic Participation Mini Grants: Call for Proposals

Applications Due March 26, 2021

Purpose: In support of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's metropolitan mission, Civic Participation Mini Grants provide funding to UNO's faculty, staff, and students to implement projects that engage the campus in community engagement activities. Individual/groups of students and/or student organizations are encouraged to apply but must identify a faculty or staff member affiliated with a campus department who will act as a fiduciary for the award.

Civic engagement projects extend learning outside of classroom experiences and build the knowledge, skills, and abilities for active civic and community engagement. Applications should provide evidence of how students have been actively involved in the design of the proposed projects and will be involved in their implementation, and how they and other possible program participants – other campus stakeholders, nonprofit partners, and/or the community at large – will benefit. Projects can be, but do not have to be, connected with an academic course.

A list of previously funded projects can be found on the [Civic Participation Projects website](#). Here are some examples by subject area:

- 1. Elections/Political/Civic Engagement:** projects focused specifically on elections and political event promotion/education and/or directly increasing civic engagement (e.g., “DebateWatch 2016” provided a public forum for members of the UNO community to view the 2016 presidential debates).
- 2. Educational Programming:** projects focused on improving or impacting educational programming. A number of these projects focused on different facets of education. The following sub-categories have been included.
 - **K-12:** projects focused specifically on working with K-12 students (e.g. “Global Citizens Academy: Phase I & II, 2017-2019” provided the opportunity for UNO international students to teach upper-elementary students about the world).
 - **Teacher Training:** projects focused on training educators (e.g. “Using Social Justice as a Lens in Mathematics Teaching, 2014” informed local teachers and educators of ways to use mathematics as a vehicle for teaching about social justice issues in their community).
 - **Student-focused:** projects focused on educating UNO students (e.g. “Civic Participation Data Analysis Competition, 2018” encouraged UNO students to participate in a competition where they analyzed civic participation data).
- 3. Science, Technology, & Environmental Issues:** projects focused on science, environmental issues, and/or technology as it relates to civic engagement (e.g. “What’s In Your Watershed Day 2014” trained high school students about water quality and asked them to conduct water quality tests in their communities and share results in a workshop).
- 4. Inclusion/Diversity/Civil Rights:** projects focused specifically on issues of inclusion, diversity, and/or civil rights (e.g. “ActivIST: Survey the Need for Action in Diversity & Inclusion for the College of Information Science & Technology, 2016-2017” surveyed members of the College of Information Science & Technology to gauge and improve the level of inclusion and diversity within the college).

5. **Non-profit/public policy:** projects related to the non-profit sector or public policy issues (e.g. “Women in Public Policy, 2018-2019” and a similar Zoom event in 2019-2020 gave the UNO community a chance to engage with policymakers and the local community members on matters of public interest in the policy arena).

The selection committee is also interested in creative proposals associated with current civic issues, such as voting rights, social justice, protest, and social movements, redlining, and civic participation in a time of social distancing.

The committee welcomes student-driven projects such as individual student research or service projects focused on community/civic engagement topics including, but not limited, to those above; student organization-led, nonpartisan voter engagement projects or workshops; a campus-community speaker series. Student applicants must identify a faculty or staff member affiliated with a campus department who will act as a fiduciary for the award. Students who are interested in submitting a proposal but need assistance in connecting with a UNO faculty or staff member may contact Jonathan C. Benjamin-Alvarado, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at jalvarado@unomaha.edu.

Open applications for projects to be implemented during the 2020-2021 academic year are being accepted with a deadline of March 26, 2021. [Applications can be accessed here](#). Applications should include:

- Project description and title
- Project learning outcomes
- Evaluation/assessment strategy(ies)
- Articulation of student involvement
- Budget description (maximum of \$1000)

Projects funded in this round may begin in May 2021 or after and should be completed by December 31, 2021, although exceptions may be made for longer-term proposals.

Questions regarding applications should be referred to Sara Woods at swoods@unomaha.edu.