



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Project Citizen

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of these funds are to support Project Citizen, a program sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Center for Civic Education, to promote participation in government for elementary, middle, and high school students.

2. **Description of services provided:**

OSPI administered a grant program which offered the opportunity for educators and students to learn about civic education in Washington State.

Educators attended online trainings, which instructed teachers on how the state competitions would be run and included detailed instruction regarding the Zoom and Teams options for events, how to set up breakout rooms for judges, and instruction on facilitator responsibilities. The trainings also addressed curriculum questions and assisted teachers with any challenges they were facing. The following trainings were held:

- Summer 2020: Zoom Training (week-long)
- January 2021: *We the People* State Showcase Training
- May 2021: *Project Citizen* Training

The *Project Citizen* Washington State Showcase was held virtually:

- The showcase was held in May 2021 with two classrooms.
- The program was able to secure a full slate of qualified judges with online experience.
- The format was changed to accommodate the online platform, requesting the teachers turn in digital portfolios for judging.

[*We the People* State Competition](#) was held virtually:

- The winner, from Tahoma High School, placed 10th nationally.

Civic Ed Washington State distributed several full curriculum sets of Project Citizen textbooks and granted access to many e-book sets to complete classes. The following districts received materials:

- Anacortes, Battleground, Bremerton, Edmonds, LaCenter, Lake Washington, Lynden, Omak, Port Orchard, Richland, St. George (private school), Tacoma, Wahkiakum, and Wapato.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

Project Citizen works with any educators who will incorporate Project Citizen into their Social Studies courses or extracurricular programs. Educators must attend a free training to receive support materials, and districts must arrange for regional contests to qualify students for the Project Citizen State contest. Participation in the contest is encouraged but not required.

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	14
Number of Schools:	45
Number of Students:	1,245 (est)
Number of Educators:	45 (est)
Other: <i>Name other...</i>	0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0 FTE

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation:	\$75,000
Federal Appropriation:	\$0
Other fund sources:	\$0
TOTAL (FY21)	\$75,000

4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**

No

Yes, please explain.

5. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$75,000	\$60,000
FY20	\$75,000	\$60,000
FY19	\$50,000	\$50,000
FY18	\$50,000	\$50,000
FY17	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY16	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY15	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY14	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY13	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY12	\$25,000	\$25,000
FY11	\$12,000	\$12,000
FY10	\$25,000	\$25,000

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators	Number of Other
FY21	14	45	1,245 (est)	45 (est)	0
FY20	9	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	46	0
FY19	0	0	0	31	930

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):** Funding for the Project Citizen Funding for the proviso has increased overtime.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

Mount Tahoma High School placed 10th this year in a national competition. Two middle schools competed and scored very well against their high school competition; therefore, being elected to participate nationally, for the experience.

While funding has increased this funding cycle, implementation has been difficult during the Covid-19 outbreak as remote learning and travel restrictions limited access to the program. We would recommend *We the People's* national and state offices consider providing resources and materials in a more robust remote platform to increase equity of access.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Initially, there were eight classrooms and 250 students committed to participate in the Project Citizen Showcase; however, with the time constraints of limited online

teaching, many of the teachers did not have capacity to achieve the culminating portfolio and had to withdraw.

Experienced and dedicated teachers also struggled to conduct online lessons due to district changes to their online teaching methods and policies.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Assuming we move beyond COVID-19 there should be continued opportunity for educator support of student civic engagement through this program.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

ESSB 5092, Sec. 1518 (3)(a) \$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for project citizen and we the people: The citizen and the constitution programs sponsored by the national conference of state legislatures and the center for civic education to promote participation in government by middle and high school students. Of the amounts provided, \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 are provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution state competition.

12. **Other relevant information:**

The \$15,000 of the general fund provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the *We the People* state competition was not utilized due to the competition being moved online in response to the state's stay-at-home order.

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

Name: Jerry Price

Title: Social Studies Program Supervisor

Phone: 360-725-6351

Email: jerry.price@k12.wa.us