

NC COLLEGIATE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT (NC-CCP)



Campus Compact
North Carolina

Civil Discourse & Dialogue Mini-Grants

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Application deadline: **Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

Through the NC Collegiate Citizenship Project, North Carolina Campus Compact is providing funding to member institutions to promote civil discourse and dialogue. *Funding is provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.*

MINI-GRANT OVERVIEW

To encourage institutions of higher education to engage in civil discourse and dialogue, NC Campus Compact will award \$700 mini-grants to select member campuses. According to the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) www.ncdd.org:

- **Civil discourse** is engagement in discourse (conversation) intended to enhance understanding. Kenneth J. Gergen describes civil discourse as “the language of dispassionate objectivity,” and suggests that it requires respect of the other participants, such as the reader. It neither diminishes the other’s moral worth, nor questions their good judgment; it avoids hostility, direct antagonism, or excessive persuasion; it requires modesty and an appreciation for the other participant’s experiences. (From Wikipedia.)
- **“Dialogue** means we sit and talk with each other, especially those with whom we may think we have the greatest differences. However, talking together all too often means debating, discussing to convince with a view to convincing-the other, arguing for our point of view, examining the pros and cons. In dialogue, the intention is not to advocate but to inquire; not to argue but to explore; not to convince but to discover.” (Louise Diamond, Ph.D., The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, <http://www.imtd.org/>) Dialogue is often defined as a conversation between two or more people or an exchange of ideas or opinions. It is characterized by participants exchanging information face-to-face, sharing personal stories and experiences, honestly expressing perspectives, clarifying viewpoints, and developing solutions. The goal of dialogue is to deepen understanding and judgment, and to think about ways to make a difference on an issue. This is more likely to occur in a safe, focused discussion when people exchange views freely and consider a variety of views. (From <https://dialoguecircles.com/>).

All grantees are required to host at least four dialogues during the 2020-21 academic year. Dialogues must involve diverse campus constituents (students, faculty, staff, and administrators). While not

required, applicants are encouraged to include community stakeholders in their dialogues when appropriate.

While participating institutions are strongly encouraged to utilize one of the models listed below, we will accept proposals that include alternative models. However, applicants must demonstrate the proposed model(s) is well developed and vetted. Funds will not support the development of new models.

Recommended Models:

- Ask Big Questions – <https://www.askbigquestions.org/>
- Braver Angels - <https://braverangels.org/>
- Civil Discourse© - <https://humancommunication.asu.edu/research-initiatives/i-4c-collective/civil-dialogue>
- Dialogue to Change (Everyday Democracy) - <https://www.everyday-democracy.org/>
- Essential Partners - <https://whatisessential.org/>
- Intergroup Dialogue - <https://igr.umich.edu/>
- Living Room Conversations - <https://www.livingroomconversations.org/>
- National Issues Forum (Deliberative Dialogue) - <https://www.nifi.org/>
- Sustained Dialogue - <https://sustaineddialogue.org/our-work/campus/>

GOALS

This initiative seeks to:

1. Assist participating campuses in developing dialogue and discourse competency within and amongst campus constituents (faculty, staff, students, and administrators)
2. Promote a campus culture that embraces open and honest conversations across differences
3. Provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to become informed, civically engaged citizens
4. Support the healthy functioning of our participatory democracy by promoting critical conversations to find common ground for action on the myriad public challenges facing our nation

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND ELIGIBILITY

North Carolina Campus Compact will award up to seven Civil Discourse & Dialogue mini-grants. Each grant award amount is \$700. Applicants must be a current NC Campus Compact member institution and can only receive one mini-grant per campus. Grantees are expected to monitor and report on use of grant funds and outcomes of grant-supported activities.

Preference will be given to institutions that seek to implement plans they generated during NC Campus Compact's 2020 Civic Engagement Institute and/or to institutions that plan to host at least one dialogue related to racial equity. Institutions who do not fit either category, but who provide a robust strategy to promote dialogue and civil discourse, are still encouraged to apply.

Funds may be used to support any expenses related to promoting dialogue or civic discourse. Allowable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, costs related to hosting a training or workshop such as facility fees, trainer compensation, technology expenses, or material and food as well as expenses to host the actual dialogues.

TIMELINE

Request for Proposals Released	June 22, 2020
Applications Due	July 15, 2020
Award Notification	July 22, 2020
Funds Disseminated	July 22 – July 31, 2020
Activity Period Begins	Monday, August 3, 2020
Mini-Grantee Orientation	Wednesday, August 12, 2020 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
Fall Mid-Semester Check-In (all grantees)	October (TBD)
Mid-Year Report Due (all grantees)	December 9, 2020
Spring Mid-Semester Check-in (all grantees)	March (TBD)
Funding Period Ends	June 1, 2020
Final Impact & Expense Report Due	June 11, 2020

WHERE TO APPLY?

To apply for this grant, visit this link: bit.ly/DialogueMinigrants20

DISCLAIMERS

All grantees must agree to follow proper social distancing protocol related to COVID-19 for any in-person gatherings. Also, due to the uncertainties related to COVID-19, we recognize that any planned in-person dialogues may need to shift to virtual gatherings.

CONTACT

Questions? Contact Leslie Garvin, Executive Director (lgarvin@elon.edu) or (336) 278-7278.