



Campus Compact
North Carolina

NC COLLEGIATE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT
“DEMOCRACY NEVER SLEEPS” FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
(2021-22)

Election Engagement Grants (\$750)
Dialogue & Civil Discourse Grants (\$1000)
Democracy Innovation Grants (\$5000)

Application deadline: May 12, 2021

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

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

In 2020, NC Campus Compact launched the *NC Collegiate Citizenship Project* to support member campuses in promoting non-partisan voter education opportunities for students. As 2021 involves local and municipal elections in a limited number of locales throughout the state, the 2021 initiative *Democracy Never Sleeps* seeks to provide support for election engagement but to also promote awareness, education, and action related to citizenship that extends beyond voting.

Funding is provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

One goal of the *Democracy Never Sleeps* initiative is to build on the momentum and energy we witnessed among our member campuses throughout 2020. The data reveals that young people played a major role in the 2020 election with an estimated turnout of 52%-55% of eligible 18- to 29-year-olds casting ballots. This was higher than in 2016 and likely one of the highest youth participation rates in decades. In North Carolina the 2020 youth voter turnout is estimated at 55% up from 45% in 2016. <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/state-state-2020-youth-voter-turnout-south>.

Data from a post-election survey conducted by CIRCLE indicated that young people (ages 18-29) engaged in multiple ways leading up to the 2020 election and felt empowered by these actions. Of the young people surveyed, about 1 in 4 donated to a campaign (24%) or registered others to vote (23%), close to half (45%) tried to convince their peers to vote, and two thirds spoke with friends about the election and politics. Overwhelming majorities of youth say they believe in their power to change the country (84%) and they recognize that work to improve communities extends beyond elections and voting (84%). Three in four youth believe that “people like them” should participate in the political decisions that shape the country (76%) and, in fact, that they have the responsibility to do so (80%).

The data found that concerns about racial issues was a key motivation for their civic and political action: 56% say they talked to friends, family, or coworkers about how racism affects our society; 45% report taking concrete action for racial justice in 2020. Data for one form of engagement - attending a march or demonstration - was compared to data from 2016. The increase of young people who said they engaged in this activity grew from 10 percent in 2016 to 31 percent in 2020. <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/2020-election-over-young-people-believe-continued-engagement>

While the CIRCLE study found that young people spoke to their peers about elections and politics, another recent study found that, in the six weeks leading up to the 2020 election, a majority of students (62%) said they were reluctant to discuss politics, race and other controversial topics *in class settings*. <http://heterodoxacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Campus-Expression-Survey-Report-2020.pdf>

Another study found that 49% of young Americans say they do not know enough about the issues to get involved in social causes or campaigns. (<https://www.prrri.org/research/american-democracy-in-crisis-civic-engagement-young-adult-activism-and-the-2018-midterm-elections/>)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

In order to increase student involvement in democracy and to develop the habits, skills, dispositions, and practices of citizenship in a democracy, NC Campus Compact is offering three grant opportunities to member institutions.

Institutions can apply for grants in all three categories, but **a campus can only receive one grant.**

- Election Engagement Grants (\$750)
- Dialogue & Civil Discourse Grants (\$1000)
- Democracy Innovation Grants (\$5000)

DISCLAIMERS

Current indicators suggest that in-person activities will likely resume during the 2021-22 academic year. However, all awarded grantees must agree to follow any restrictions related to COVID-19 that may be in effect. Also, due to the uncertainties related to the pandemic, we recognize that any planned in-person events may need to shift to virtual gatherings.

TIMELINE

Request for Proposals Released	Wednesday, April 14, 2021
Full Proposals Due	Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Award Notification	Monday, May 24, 2021
Funds Disseminated	Week of June 14 th
Grant Period Begins	July 1, 2021
Funding Period Ends	May 15, 2022
Final Impact & Expense Report Due	June 1, 2022

Election Engagement Grants

GRANT OVERVIEW

To encourage institutions of higher education to promote election engagement, NC Campus Compact will award \$750 grants to select member campuses.

GOALS

Through these funds we seek to:

1. [*Specifically in locations where local and municipal elections will occur in fall 2021*] Promote non-partisan voter education opportunities for students to learn about voting processes, issues, roles, and candidates and to motivate and assist students in voting.
2. Develop sustainable structures that will assist a campus in promoting ongoing student election engagement. Possible activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Forming a campus-wide election engagement committee or coalition
 - b. Securing a polling site on campus
 - c. Developing a campus-wide election engagement plan
 - d. Promoting [National Voter Education Week](#) (October 4-8, 2021)
 - e. Informing students of key election related issues such as redistricting
 - f. Participating in the [Voter Friendly Campus](#) designation process and/or the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#)

EXPECTATIONS

- All activities must align with election engagement structures or initiatives that currently exist on your campus.
- All grantee institutions are required to sign up to participate in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).

FUNDING AND ELIGIBILITY

Up to nine Election Engagement Grants will be awarded. Applicants must be a current NC Campus Compact member institution or have committed to join for the 2021-22 academic year.

Funds may be used to support any expenses related to promoting election engagement that meet the stated goals. Allowable expenses may include student leader stipends, facility rentals, transportation, food, supplies, materials, printing, technology services, speaker fees, or other programming expenses. All supported activities should be non-partisan and inclusive. Grantees are expected to monitor and report on use of grant funds and outcomes of grant-supported activities.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Funding for this initiative is provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. They have a strict prohibition against using their funds for voter registration. Please ensure the grant funds are not used for such activities.

To apply for this grant, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/electionengagement21>

Civil Discourse & Dialogue Grants

GRANT OVERVIEW

To encourage institutions of higher education to engage in civil discourse and dialogue, NC Campus Compact will award \$1000 grants to select member campuses. For useful definitions of these terms, we recommend reviewing the Glossary provided by the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) <https://ncdd.org/rc/glossary/>

EXPECTATIONS

All grantees are required to host at least four dialogues during the 2021-22 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:

- Braver Angels - <https://braverangels.org/>
- Bring it to the Table - <https://bringit2thetable.org/>
- Civil Dialogue - <https://humancommunication.asu.edu/research-initiatives/i-4c-collective/civil-dialogue> <https://www.amazon.com/Hot-Topics-Cool-Heads-Handbook/dp/1524943800>
- Civic Dinners - <https://www.civicedinners.com/>
- Deliberative Dialogue (National Issues Forum) - <https://www.nifi.org/>
- 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/>
- Sustained Dialogue - <https://sustaineddialogue.org/our-work/campus/>

GOALS

Through these funds we seek to:

1. Develop dialogue and discourse competency within and among 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 five Civil Discourse & Dialogue mini-grants. Each grant award amount is \$1000. Applicants must be a current NC Campus Compact member institution or have committed to join for the 2021-22 academic year. Campuses who received a Civil Discourse & Dialogue mini-grant in 2020 are eligible to apply but the application must demonstrate how these funds will build on the outcomes of the 2020 grant they received.

Preference will be given to institutions that plan to host at least one dialogue related to racial equity.

Funds may be used to support any expenses related to promoting dialogue or civic discourse that meet the stated goals. 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, materials and food as well as expenses to host the actual dialogues. Grantees are expected to monitor and report on use of grant funds and outcomes of grant-supported activities.

To apply for this grant, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/discoursedialogue>

Democracy Innovation Grants (\$5000)

GRANT OVERVIEW

To promote civic and democratic engagement beyond elections, we are awarding two \$5000 Democracy Innovation Grants.

GOALS

Through these funds we are seeking new projects, programs, or initiatives that:

- Help students develop the skills, habits, and dispositions of citizenship in a democracy. Possible approaches include civic learning, media literacy, Issues Forums, etc.
- Are creative, impactful, and sustainable
- Are curricular and co-curricular (preference will be given to projects that incorporate both)

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND ELIGIBILITY

North Carolina Campus Compact will award two Democracy Innovation Grants. Each grant award amount is \$5000. Applicants must be a current NC Campus Compact member institution or have committed to join for the 2021-22 academic year.

Funds may be used to support any expenses related to meeting the stated goals. Allowable expenditures may include, but are not limited to, facility fees, training fees, technology expenses, materials, and food. Grantees are expected to monitor and report on use of grant funds and outcomes of grant-supported activities.

WHERE TO APPLY?

To apply for this grant, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/democracyinnovation>