



UServeUtah

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

UServeUtah Community Engagement Grant Resources:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated March 31, 2021

1. Why are there not examples of specific community engagement projects available for this grant opportunity?

For this grant we are not looking for one specific type of project, but encourage organizations to apply that are increasing Utahns' awareness of and participation in community engagement initiatives. The outcomes of the grant should include changes in community and/or civic engagement skills, attitudes, behavior, and/or knowledge. We would like to see the way(s) in which the applicants are thoughtful about activities and education that will help volunteers and/or recipients of the project stay engaged throughout their lives. Keep in mind that community and civic engagement refer to actions to improve issues of public concern through both political and nonpolitical processes. The Community Engagement Pathways provide a framework for the way(s) in which applicants can complete their proposed project(s).

2. Can this grant funding be used on civics education projects or only direct service initiatives?

The community engagement model used by UServeUtah is the [Pathways of Community Engagement](#). This framework identifies six pathways that should be used in conjunction with this grant funding. While the pathways model includes direct service, this is only one of the pathways that are collectively needed to effectuate change and contribute to the common good. Two of the pathways that relate fairly directly to civics education include Policy and Governance and Community Organizing and Activism. The grant application requires alignment with one of the Pathways.

3. The organization I work for provides direct service to improve the quality of life for Utahns. Am I eligible to apply?

All (501)(c)(3)s; institutions of higher education; state agencies including public schools; government entities within the state including cities, counties, and municipalities; community or faith-based organizations; and partnerships of these entities are eligible to apply. As stated in the grant application, the purpose of this grant is to increase Utahns' awareness of and participation in community and civic engagement initiatives. Organizations that receive this grant funding will need to demonstrate how the grant activities will address a compelling need and cause a change in the attitude, behavior, or skills for those engaged through grant funds.

4. Can my organization receive funding even if we are not engaging volunteers on-site due to COVID-19?

The purpose of the Community Engagement Grant is to increase the skills, attitudes, behavior, and/or knowledge of community engagement among Utah citizens. Community engagement is not limited to

individuals serving on-site at an organization. The [Pathways of Community Engagement](#) demonstrate that there are six unique pathways through which individuals can contribute to the common good and increase community and civic engagement.

5. Can this grant be applied to existing programs or does it need to be a new program?

An organization can apply for funding for an existing program as long as this grant funding would increase community and/or civic engagement for those engaged through grant funds. Keep in mind that innovation is one of the criteria that will be used to assess grant applications. The other three criteria are impact, need, and feasibility. You can find the assessment criteria and definitions included on the [Community Engagement Grant webpage](#) and in the [application preparation document](#).

6. What will I need to measure if I receive this grant funding?

Recipients will need to measure the output (number of individuals served) and the outcomes (number of individuals that experienced a change of community and/or civic engagement skills, attitudes, behavior, or knowledge). Applicants need to have a plan to track the output and assess the outcome as a result of the particular initiative proposed for funding. This outcome must be measured during the grant period. Ideally, the change in community and/or civic engagement awareness and participation will continue as individuals move throughout their lives.

Please reference the grant application's [performance measurement resources](#) for additional information on performance measurement.

7. Can grant funding be used on stipends for individuals who participate in our community engagement initiative?

No. This grant funding cannot be used to cover stipends.

8. How often will this funding opportunity be available?

This is a one-time funding opportunity and ongoing resources are based on funding from the state's legislature. As such, applicants will need to reapply each year. We anticipate funding for this grant opportunity for the next fiscal year. We will release the call for applications in April each year this grant funding is available.

9. What is the match requirement for this funding?

The grant funding received must be matched 100% with cash or in-kind contributions. Organizations that receive funding will submit a Reimbursement Request form that must include all expenses related to the Community Engagement project, including those not covered by the grant funding.

10. Since this is a community engagement centered initiative, can volunteer hours count towards in-kind donations and qualify as match?

For this funding, the in-kind volunteer hours of individuals who participate in your community engagement activities as part of this grant could not be counted as match. If your organization engages skills-based volunteers who provide other support functions to the nonprofit organization (e.g. bookkeeping) those in-kind volunteer hours could be considered match.

11. Can the UServeUtah funding be applied as match for other grants?

This funding may be used as match for other grants. However, you must indicate that you plan to use it as match in the Community Engagement Grant application.

12. Are Indirect Costs allowed to be charged on the Community Engagement Grant Funding Opportunity?

Indirect costs can be included in the grant application budget. They will need to be outlined in the budget and included as a line item(s) in that section of the application.

13. I am having trouble with the Qualtrics application.

Please contact Mike Moon (mikemoon@utah.gov) for assistance with the online application in Qualtrics.