



CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research
on Civic Learning & Engagement

Youth-led Research on Civic Engagement

CIRCLE announces a new grant competition for *research on civic engagement* that is *conducted by youth*. Research teams that include youth and adults working together, or research teams of youth and adult mentors are welcome to apply. For the purposes of this RFP, “youth” means people younger than 18. We will also consider proposals involving young adults who are between the ages of 18 and 25 and have not attended college. Youth-led teams that are part of a registered 501(c)3, a local government agency or council, or a school will be considered. Research topics may address themes of youth civic engagement including:

- the effects of volunteering, service-learning, group membership, youth leadership, news consumption, or political participation on the civic attitudes and behaviors of youth in a community or school,
- the causes of civic participation in a community or school,
- differences in youth civic participation, attitudes, or behaviors by race, culture, gender, age, family income, or other factors,
- barriers to youth civic engagement in a community, and
- community strengths or opportunities for civic engagement,

Funds for this category of CIRCLE grants have been provided by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

CIRCLE funds research not practice. In order to be considered, all projects must specify their research goals and the methodology they will use. Examples of methodologies that may be proposed include:

- surveys
- interviews

- quantitative or qualitative analysis of materials such as newspaper articles, organization materials, or community products (either contemporary or historic)
- participatory-action research
- ethnographic approaches
- asset mapping
- community mapping
- case studies

Proposals will be evaluated on the clarity and significance of the research question, strength of the research design, likelihood of reaching the research goals, experience of the adult partners/mentors, and the quality of youth involvement in guiding and realizing the project.

CIRCLE currently has a total of \$25,000 to support youth research. Requests exceeding \$25,000 will not be considered. However, if your proposal budget is greater, we welcome opportunities for joint funding with other foundations, organizations, and agencies.

Application Process:

Interested parties should submit a mandatory preliminary letter of inquiry no later than **Wednesday, February 18th, 2004**. The letter should outline research goals, methodology & work plan, the composition of the research team, and a description of how the team will work together. A preliminary budget request should be included, and should not exceed \$25,000.

Letters of inquiry should not exceed three pages.

Policies:

Overhead or indirect costs are limited to no more than 10% of the salaries and benefits portion of the total budget.

When publishing results, appropriate acknowledgement of CIRCLE's support should be given. Data arising from CIRCLE-sponsored research will be made public via the CIRCLE Website (www.civicyouth.org) within a month of receipt of the finished research project unless other agreements are reached in specific cases. In addition, CIRCLE reserves the right to publish summaries of technical research in a format accessible to general audiences.

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