Civic Power Grant Request for Proposals

The We the People Coalition is looking to invest in and support non-partisan 501c3 local initiatives that enhance democracy, plant the seeds for democracy reform at the state and local level, advance equity and racial justice, increase participation in elections, and get community members ready to vote. Civic engagement proposals could be for one community or several across the state.

The grant program builds off of a major win for democracy in NJ and two years of powerful civic engagement efforts aimed at improving voting rates in communities left out of traditional voter outreach, cultivating new leaders in BIPOC communities, youth and LGBTQ+ through sharing resources with grassroots organizations.

Black, Indigenous, People of Color and other powerful groups systematically targeted for oppression in communities across New Jersey are encouraged to apply.

We the People Coalition grantees receive access to a suite of tools, including technology and training, to enhance their civic engagement and voter education activities. They are connected to a powerful statewide and grassroots network of democracy advocates with a shared goal of building community power and a more inclusive democracy.

We the People seeks proposals for initiatives that fall into one or both of the following categories.

1. **Category I: Increase participation in elections and preparing community members to vote:**
- Door and street canvassing, and phone and/or text banking to voters who have been traditionally left out of voter outreach to increase voter participation and ongoing outreach on democracy issues.
- In-person events, like a block party, community potluck, house party, that include voter engagement i.e. voter registration and vote-by-mail application drives, information on voting deadlines, voting rights, election dates, what is on the ballot and policies that can be enacted to make democracy in NJ more inclusive and solicit ideas from participants.
- Hosting virtual or in-person nonpartisan candidate forums paired with outreach to voters
- Creating multilingual printed nonpartisan voter education materials (i.e. pledge cards that ask voters to commit to voting in an election, flyers that educate voters on who is running for office, voting rights, election dates, and where to vote.)
- Local voter protection initiatives and know your rights trainings

2. **Category II: Community initiatives that enhance democracy and cultivate new leaders in BIPOC communities, youth and LGBTQ+:**
- Community forums that bring elected officials together with community members to discuss policy solutions to issues that impact your community and how to get these initiatives enacted.
- Training or education on local ballot measures and the process of how to develop and pass citizen-driven initiatives or referendums
- Forums, roundtables or online broadcasts (i.e. Facebook Live) that engage on issues of community concern, including economic, social, racial and environmental justice policies that could be implemented to enhance local democracy.
- Listening sessions on what democracy means to your community, and the barriers and challenges to participation.
- Nonpartisan education and trainings encouraging community members to run for office.

Democracy Dates to Remember:
- September 17, 2024 - National Voter Registration Day September 17, 2024
- October 7 - 11, 2024 - National Voter Education Week
- October 15, 2024 - Voter Registration Deadline
- October 29, 2024 - Vote-by-Mail Application Deadline (by mail)
- October 26 - Nov. 3 - Early Voting
- November 4, 2024 - Vote-by-Mail Application Deadline (in-person)
- November 5, 2024 - Election Day
- June NJ 2025 Primary election

Democracy Organizing Grants will range from $5,000 to $15,000. We encourage previous grantees to submit proposals.

Proposal guidelines and requirements (please include the following in your proposal):
1.) A plan for long-term power building
2.) Demonstrated commitment to racial and social justice
3.) Metrics for how you assess what you are achieving your proposal goals. Using data tracking using the C3 Voter Action Network (VAN) - access, training, and follow-up support on use of VAN will be provided to grantees.
4.) A short summary of the project including a report back on metrics will be submitted after the project is completed.
5.) A program budget
6.) Funds must be used for 501(c)(3) purposes. Funds cannot be used to support or oppose candidates for office.
7.) Projects must start September 2024 and be completed no later than March 2025
8.) Agree to participate in a We The People Coalition sub-grantee convening

[Apply Here](#)