



FOUNDATION FOR
APPALACHIAN OHIO



Strengthening Civics Education in Appalachian Ohio

CIVICS EDUCATION | REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



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Request for Proposals

The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) envisions a future where every person in Appalachian Ohio flourishes. Where strong, vibrant communities provide abundant educational, job and social opportunities and residents live longer, healthier lives. Where everyone experiences a deep sense of well-being.

In partnership with 14 geographic affiliate foundations and the regionwide African American Community Fund, we work to unleash the collective potential within our 32-county region by encouraging and supporting philanthropy. Through transformative partnerships and donor generosity, we help to ensure that local community builders of all ages have access to the resources they need to implement and scale innovative ideas that promote well-being in Appalachian Ohio.

The Opportunity

Thanks to our continued partnership with the Longaberger Family Foundation, FAO is inviting grant applications to support K-12 civics education opportunities for public school students in Appalachian Ohio. A 2023 study commissioned by the Appalachian Funders Network found that civic engagement has both economic and health benefits for communities.¹ By encouraging our youth to become more civically involved, we are helping to support overall well-being in our region.

Public schools, educators, students, and public and nonprofit organizations serving K-12 students across [Appalachian Ohio's 32 counties](#) are eligible to apply for this funding. Young people are encouraged to participate in – or even lead – the application process in collaboration with trusted adults and eligible organizations.

Funding is available to support projects and programs that help Appalachian Ohio youth develop the knowledge and skills they need to become informed and engaged community members. Some examples of projects supported previously by this grant program include:

- ***A student-led podcast featuring civic leaders***
- ***Student participation in Model United Nations and Youth in Government conferences, National History Day events and mock trial competitions***
- ***A fellowship program that places high school students in local government offices to learn about public service***
- ***A service-learning project through which students cleaned gravestones of community founders***
- ***Development of civics education literature, lesson plans and experiential learning opportunities for various grade levels***

¹ [A Road Map of Asset Based Investing in Central Appalachia](#) (2023). Prepared for the Appalachian Funders Network by Reinvestment Fund and the University of Kentucky's Community and Economic Development Initiative.

Grant requests should be between \$500 and \$5,000, although awards up to \$10,000 will be considered based on potential impact. At least \$30,000 in funding is available for this application cycle.

Since 2019, FAO and the Longaberger Family Foundation have awarded more than \$95,000 in civics education grants through the Strengthening Civics Education in Appalachian Ohio program. For a full list of previous grant recipients, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/civics.

Submission information

All applications must be submitted electronically through FAO's grant portal, available at www.AppalachianOhio.org/civics, **by Friday, March 14**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For inquiries or clarifications regarding this opportunity, contact Kelly Morman at kmorman@ffao.org.

Why Civics Education?

According to Educating for American Democracy, the federal government spends an average of just 5 cents per student for civics education each year.² Yet research shows that civics knowledge among schoolchildren is declining, with a significant impact on low-income and nonwhite students.³ Average scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam declined for the first time between 2018 and 2022 (the last time the test was given).

An effective civics education allows students to better understand the civic infrastructure around us while providing students and educators with resources to implement and practice civic skills both inside and outside the classroom. Through this grant opportunity, FAO and the Longaberger Family Foundation aim to help students better understand their roles in their communities; how local, state and national issues affect them; and how they can affect change to help promote well-being throughout Appalachian Ohio.

Strengthening Civics Education in Appalachian Ohio is part of FAO's Education Pillar of Prosperity, one of five areas essential to growing and sustaining a flourishing Appalachian Ohio.

² "[Educating for American Democracy Initiative Summary](#)" (2021). The Educating for American Democracy initiative was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Department of Education through a grant to iCivics in collaboration with Harvard University, Tufts University, CIRCLE and Arizona State University.

³ National Assessment of Educational Progress Civics Assessment (2022): www.nationsreportcard.gov/civics/.



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