



# Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## *Citizen/Constitution Programs*

### 1. **Purpose:**

As the cornerstones of American democracy, civic education and participation are indispensable outcomes of the American public education system. Washington state's 'We the People' and 'Project Citizen' programs provide structured and engaging entry points to civic education and engagement for middle and high school classes.

### 2. **Description of services provided:**

This proviso issued a grant combining We the People and Project Citizen in Washington state and provided the following services:

- Program Outreach
  - Maintained program website.
  - Emails and calls to district officials, school principals, and teachers.
  - Coordinated Project Citizen Showcase online to include five school participants from Vancouver School District, Evergreen School District, Renton School District, Redmond School District and Lake Washington School District.
- Distribution of Resources
  - Made teaching and learning resources available to educators on the website (<https://www.civiced.org/teaching-resources>)
  - Distributed textbook sets to participating classrooms.
- Educator Professional Development
  - Supported educators to attend National training.
  - Held trainings in Vancouver School District for all three grade-level bands.
  - Provided individual training to interested educators.
- Civics Competition Support
  - Supported 150 students and 15 educators traveling to state level competition.
  - Awarded travel grant to winning team to national competition.

### 3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

We the People and Project Citizen work with any educators who will incorporate the content into their Social Studies courses or extracurricular programs. Educators must attend a free training to receive support materials, and districts must arrange for regional contests to qualify students for the Project Citizen State Contest. Participation in the contest is encouraged but not required.



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## Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	5
Number of Schools:	15
Number of Students:	150
Number of Educators:	15
Other:	n/a

### 4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

### 5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$75,000	\$75,000
2022	\$75,000	\$75,000
2021	\$75,000	\$60,000
2020	\$75,000	\$60,000
2019	\$50,000	\$50,000

### 6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
2023	5 Districts, 5 Schools
2022	7 Districts, 7 Schools
2021	14 Districts, 45 Schools
2020	9 Districts, no data on schools
2019	No data

### 7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Funding for the Project Citizen Proviso has increased several times, from \$25,000 in 2010 to the current \$75,000. No changes were made during the current fiscal year.

### 8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Students in the Project Citizen and We the People programs continued to explore civic and community topics for greater impact in terms of civic engagement. Educators continued to receive support for program implementation in their classrooms.



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## 9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

The grantee expressed challenges with commitment from schools and districts compared to 2021–22 fiscal year. In addition, the grantee had challenges keeping comprehensive data on participants and text set counts.

## 10. **Future opportunities:**

The We the People and Project Citizen programs have the potential to grow in both quality and quantity if embedded within a larger support network. A stable structure at the regional level, as well as deliberate alignment with the priorities of the administering agency and best practices in social studies education, would increase program capacity and benefit participants. There are also ample opportunities to align grant work with OSPI's vision, goals, and services, including a clearer connection with Washington State Social Studies Learning Standards and revision of OSPI Developed Assessments in Civics.

## 11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for project citizen and we the people: The citizen and the constitution programs sponsored by the national conference of state legislatures and the center for civic education to promote participation in government by middle and high school students. Of the amounts provided, \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the we the people: The citizen and the constitution state competition.

## 12. **Other relevant information:**

The \$15,000 transportation stipend went to Tahoma High School this year. They won the state level We The People competition and went on to place in the top 10 in the National Competition.

## 13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

## 14. **Program Contact Information:**

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