

Citizen/Constitution Programs

Budget Language

\$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$75,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 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 2024 and \$15,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the we the people: The citizen and the constitution state competition.

Proviso Purpose

Ensuring all students are prepared to participate meaningfully in civic life is necessary for the health of our communities, the balance of government, and the longevity of our American democracy. As such, civic education and engagement programs are one of the highest callings of public education. Student civics programs like “Project Citizen” and “We the People,” which have administration duties at both the state and national levels, provide Washington students with structured and engaging entry points designed around active, collaborative learning.

Services Provided

This proviso supported a contract with Civic Education Washington State (CEWS) for services related to both the Project Citizen and We the People programs. Contracted services included:

- State Leadership: Maintained a state coordinator to oversee program implementation and reporting.
- Outreach and Support: Provided support to districts, schools, educators, students, families, and community members, including but not limited to information, guidance, resources, training, and events.
- Textbook Distribution: Purchased over 90 textbooks for classroom use.
- Student Events: Planned, coordinated, and hosted the We the People State Final in service to 76 students and three educators.
- Travel Stipend: Awarded a travel stipend of \$15,000 to support Washington’s top team in competing at the National Final.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

The Project Citizen and We the People programs are open to all Washington social studies educators and their students. Participation in the overall programs and their associated events is optional.



Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	>4
Number of Schools:	>5
Number of Students:	166
Number of Educators:	43
Other (including families, community members, and representatives of civic organizations):	26

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$75,000	\$75,000
2024	\$75,000	\$72,825
2023	\$75,000	\$75,000
2022	\$75,000	\$75,000
2021	\$75,000	\$60,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	>4 Districts, >5 Schools, 43 educators, 166 students, 26 others
2024	11 Districts, 23 Schools (15 public, 8 private)
2023	5 Districts, 5 Schools
2022	7 Districts, 7 Schools
2021	14 Districts, 45 Schools

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

From 2010–24, this work was administered via grant. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) shifted to a contract model during the 2024–25 fiscal year. CEWS, the organization that has implemented this work for many years, also experienced a change in Executive Director in 2024.

The amount of funding provided by the legislature to support this work has changed several times. In 2010, funding was established at \$25,000 and by 2022 it had reached \$75,000, where it remained through the 2024–25 fiscal year.

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025, OSPI is no longer implementing this program.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Implementation of the Project Citizen and We the People programs during the 2024–25 fiscal year was particularly strong, with beneficiaries extending well beyond students and educators, to include families, community members, and civic organizations. The multifaceted nature of these programs -- which can include teacher training, curricula and classroom instruction, project-based learning, and student events – offers each learning community a menu of engagement options. In particular, CEWS made great strides this year in forging connections between these program components, such as facilitating professional development for educators on-site at the students' We the People State Final.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Major challenges reported by CEWS include a transition in organizational leadership and the loss of a federal grant. Additionally, CEWS reports that the absence of educator training specific to the Project Citizen program, as well as limited resources at the district/school level to support attendance at Project Citizen events, has made it difficult to design programming in which educators and students have the means to participate.

Future Opportunities

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Future opportunities will depend on future legislative direction and resources dedicated to the work.

Other Relevant Information

CEWS reports having lost at least one federal grant, in addition to the elimination of state funding through this proviso.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

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