



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
 - Presented at the Legislative Scholars online event, reaching approximately 80 educators
- Distribution of textbooks
 - Distributed nine sets of textbooks amongst Evergreen Middle School (3 sets), Toppenish High School (1 set), North Beach Jr/Sr High School (2 sets), and St. Patrick's Catholic School (3 sets)
- Educator Professional Development
 - Supported eight educators with two educator trainings (October 2021)
 - Supported three educators in attending a weeklong training in California
 - Provided individual training to interested educators

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.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:

7

Number of Schools: 7
 Number of Students: 173
 Number of Educators: 10
 Other: 80 - Educators attending 'Legislative Scholars' professional development

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding: State Appropriation: \$75,000
 Federal Appropriation: \$0
 Other Fund Sources: \$0
 TOTAL (FY22) \$75,000

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

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	\$75,000	\$75,000
2021	\$75,000	\$60,000
2020	\$75,000	\$60,000
2019	\$50,000	\$50,000
2018	\$50,000	\$50,000

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

Fiscal Year	Number of 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 its current \$75,000. No changes were made during the current fiscal year.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

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

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

As the education community transitions into a post-pandemic environment, the Project Citizen and We the People programs continue to experience challenges in building participant numbers and facilitating opportunities to deepen the practice of educators. Hosting the culminating state-level competition and showcase have also been a challenge for the grantee.

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 to 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.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(3)(a) - \$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 of the general fund provided solely for awarding a travel grant to the winner of the We the People state competition was not utilized.

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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