



Small Grant Program Recipient Profiles 2007 Recipients

Youth Advocacy Tool Kit

Action for Children North Carolina was awarded **\$5,000** to develop a tool kit to help build the civic skills, leadership, and knowledge of young people in North Carolina. The kit will include information and how-to-guides regarding local government, media and community advocacy, lobbying, voter registration, etc. The kit will be distributed free-of-charge to students enrolled in **NCSU's Students Advocating for Youth**, to all North Carolina youth branches of the **NAACP**, and to other youth leaders, advocates, and organizations across the state with the goal of providing youth advocates the tools needed for self-advocacy and addressing societal issues.

Tiger Tales

Beaufort County Schools received **\$6,000** for the implementation of a current events and media program at **John Cotton Tayloe School**. Second graders will explore current issues and events in their community and gain exposure to the world of media and technology by producing their own school newspaper and closed-circuit television news broadcast. Through participation in this project, students will increase their civic engagement, develop leadership skills, and improve their oral and written communication skills.

Developing Youth Leaders... Empowering our Community

The City of Sanford and Lee County will use their award of **\$6,200** to sponsor a Youth Council. Teens will be responsible for identifying the goals and objectives of the council, setting up the application process, and creating a marketing plan for the Youth Council. This process will involve youth in local political systems and processes, as well as provide youth leadership training at the community level. Two of the youth participants will also be selected to serve as paid interns who will work with various county and city departments to learn about multiple governmental processes over the course of 10 weeks.

Columbus County Student Internship Program

Columbus County Government is sponsoring an internship program to provide students with real-world experiences in the process of applying, interviewing, and obtaining a job in the local government sector. The award of **\$5,000** will provide stipends for student interns as they are trained and supervised in a variety of processes and tasks within a county government department.

Latino Youth Fellowship Project

El Pueblo, Inc. will use their award of **\$8,500** to foster advocacy, civic participation, and engagement of Latino youth at local, state, and national levels. Ten youth will be selected from El Pueblo's **No Fumo Youth Leadership Program** to be Latino Youth Fellows. These participants will shadow Latino advocates and professionals learning the role of non-profit agencies and community leaders in community building. They will also learn to conduct peer trainings on civics and advocacy that they will facilitate for 60 No Fumo Latino Youth participants. The Latino Youth Fellows, along with 150 other youth, will then attend the **Youth Latino Issues Forum** where they will all participate in civics-related activities.



Civics 101

Kids Voting was awarded \$5,100 to implement Civics 101, a program that will introduce 75 high school students and 25 teachers to the fundamentals of local government, the local legal system, and media. The project combines visits to government meetings, the courts, and the newspaper. Participants will learn about each entity, its history, purpose, and function. High school students will interact with leaders and conduct a mock trial, and 125 teachers will receive resource materials.

Constitutional Law/Civics Program

The NC Administrative Office of the Courts will work with students in Anson and Richmond County Schools to produce a video regarding constitutional law concepts with their \$2,500 award. Students will film one another while participating in mock courtroom proceedings, focusing on concepts such as the right to counsel, due process of law, prohibitions against ex post facto laws, and cruel and unusual punishment. Copies of the video will be available for statewide use as a supplemental teaching tool in civic education for elementary and middle school students.

Empowering NC Youth to Address Community Issues

The NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. was awarded \$10,000 to implement a statewide program in which two teens from each of North Carolina's 100 counties will work with adult coaches to assess, identify, and address local issues affecting their own community. Participants will interview select local officials, and work together in local teams to discuss and prioritize concerns. In June 2007, these participants will then attend "**4-H Citizenship North Carolina Focus**" in Raleigh, NC to share local concerns, gain citizenship and advocacy skills, learn how local and state government processes work, and meet directly with policy makers. Simultaneously, they will design individual Citizen Action Plans to address identified needs in their communities which they will implement between June and December 2007.

Visions Civic Mission Project

Northeastern Randolph Middle School received a grant of \$1,700 for their annual sixth grade service-learning project. This year, students have elected to assist **Victory Junction Gang Camp**, a local facility for children with chronic medical conditions. Students will use awarded funds to participate in a cross curricular unit, culminating in making quilts and pillows for campers staying at Victory Junction. Participants will also travel to the camp to learn about its residents, their conditions, and the camp's role in the community. Afterwards, students will participate in reflective activities that highlight the tangible difference they can make through volunteering.

SCHOLARS Serve

Scotland County Schools after-school students in grades K-8 will participate in service-learning projects that will help them learn about civic and community involvement. The \$10,000 award will be used to fund five community service projects designed and implemented by the students, with the school district matching funds to host five additional service projects. Students who participate in one of these ten projects will gain valuable experience in applying a problem-solving model to real life issues in their own communities.

