ANCHOR UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

As a community-engaged University, our mission is to align its resources and efforts to cultivate purposeful, long-term, mutually beneficial community partnerships that:

- Confront systemic inequities
- Transform the lives of our students
- Strengthen our communities.

DETAILS

ROBERT S. NELSEN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

- Awarding projects up to $5,000

Dates:

- Applications **open Feb 9** and close on **March 2 at 11:59 p.m.**

- Grant awardees are announced in **April**

- Funds will be transferred to departments by early July

- The award cycle is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

RSN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANTS DETAILS

- Individuals/project team members may submit only one grant application.

- All awardees will be required to document how funds were used and submitting a final report at the conclusion of the grant cycle.

- Sac State faculty members (tenured, tenure track, part-time), and staff members are eligible to apply.

RSN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GRANTS DETAILS

Requirements:

- Applicants are required to have at least one community partner.

- The proposed activities must connect directly to Sac State student success and learning outcomes and/or encourage student engagement and retention.

- The proposed activities will have faculty/staff and student roles.

- The proposed activities must advance equity, antiracism, and/or social justice in our community and/or on campus.

GRANT PURPOSE

The Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant funds new or existing projects aimed at improving the long-term well-being of the Sacramento region and its residents.

The purpose of this grant is to advance civic education, community organizing and advocacy, voter engagement, and civic innovation, while promoting civic participation, particularly in underserved communities.

These projects are designed to inspire and facilitate local, community-based leadership to initiate positive transformation.

CATEGORIES – SELECT AT LEAST ONE

- **Civic Education Programs**: Educate students and/or community members on their rights, responsibilities and the importance of civic participation. This may include projects to increase civic literacy, mentoring and leadership development.

- **Community Organizing and Advocacy**: Support grassroots organizations that work to address social issues and promote positive change in their communities. This may include advocacy campaigns, research projects, community organizing and coalition-building activities.

- **Voter Engagement and Mobilization**: Assist programs to increase voter turnout, especially among underrepresented populations. This may include voter registration drives, outreach campaigns and efforts to remove barriers to voting.

- **Civic Innovation and Technology**: Sponsor initiatives that use technology to enhance civic engagement and promote transparency and accountability in organizations. This may include the development of digital tools, platforms and apps that educate citizens and facilitate communication with stakeholders.

Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant

Before beginning work on the InfoReady application, carefully review:

- application questions
- scoring rubric

- Write your narrative in a Word document, then copy and paste into application (InfoReady)

COMMUNITY PARTNER FORM

All applicants must have at least one (1) new or existing community partner (community organization, government agency, non-profit, school, etc.). **The Community Partner Form must include:**

- A brief description of the community partner and its mission
- The approximate start date of the partnership
- How the proposed project benefits the community partner
- The role of faculty/staff and students in the proposed project
- An explanation of how the partnership contributes to equity, anti-racism, and/or social justice
- The expected outcomes of the proposed project
- The community organization lead contact information and signature

ANCHOR UNIVERSITY GRANT - EXPENSE DETAILS

Permissible Expenses

- Supplies

- Materials

- Equipment

- Mileage reimbursement

- Food, drinks, and refreshments

- Student employees (assistants, paid intern)

Permissible Payments

- Payment to a non-profit organization or K-12 school

- Payment to non-CSU employed individuals to perform services

- Payment to a business to perform services

- Payment to a guest speaker

- Payment to an individual providing training services student employment

If you have questions regarding hiring student(s), please contact the Student Employment office.

For more funding information about students, please click here to visit the Account Services' payment to students webpage.

ANCHOR UNIVERSITY GRANT – EXPENSE DETAILS

Non-permissible expenses

- Gift cards

- Tuition assistance or scholarships for enrolled students

- Student stipend

- Staff stipend or bonus

- Faculty assigned time/release time

BUDGET TEMPLATE GUIDELINES

- This budget template is designed to help you list the expenses associated with your project. It has pre-set drop-down menus. Describe each expense to provide an accurate representation of your project's financial needs.

- Please note: The review committee reserves the right to fund any portion of the requested expenses as best aligns with the grant's criteria and permissible expenses. There may be scenarios where the full requested amount is not granted, and only a portion is funded. If the grant is selected but the full requested amount is not granted, the Community Engagement Center Director will communicate with the Sac State project lead prior to final selection to confirm that the amount being granted is acceptable.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be submitted online via InfoReady on **March 2 by 11:59 p.m.**
- A scoring rubric is available on the grant webpage.
- The applications questions are posted to the webpage and InfoReady
  - There are nine (9) rated questions
  - Two (2) non-rated questions
    - Project title
    - Project abstract (150 words maximum)

    Upload two (2) supporting documents:
    - Community Partner Form
    - Proposed budget using the excel file template

PLEASE NOTE

- Applicant needs to notify their department administration (dean, department chair, administrator, budget analyst) of submission of the 26-27 grant application.

- If you are applying for additional funding for a previously awarded Anchor/RSN project, you must show how another grant would build upon and expand previous work.

- Serving as both the applicant and the community partner is **not permissible**. If an applicant represents the community partners and works at Sac State, they are considered the community partner stakeholder. In this case, a meaningful collaboration with a Sac State project or program is required, with the faculty or staff member acting as the project lead and submitting the application.

- Please visit the [Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant Program website](#) to apply, review the full details, criteria, and requirements.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information and questions, please contact
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