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**Youth Civic Infrastructure Fund**

**2023 Request for Proposals**

**Submit application by May 2, 2023 to ycif@futurefocusededucation.org**

Future Focused Education (FFE) believes that schools should support the development of healthy, thriving communities and be places where the problems students solve as part of their learning are directly relevant to the community in which they live. The Youth Civic Infrastructure Fund (YCIF) provides multi-year unrestricted operating grants to nonprofit organizations that are seeking to work more directly with young people whose school work aligns with the organization’s mission. These grants provide a generational investment rooted in young people learning from and applying local wisdom to address challenges in their communities.

Grantees will partner for three years with a New Mexico high school that has identified an area of community need, taking advantage of FFE’s X3 Internship platform and statewide Capstone initiative to help manage the process of working with the students and connecting their work to student graduation requirements. Nonprofit partners will work with students from the school (including some as interns) to further their mutual goals while students gain skills and advance their education.

The 2023 YCIF funders have committed to supporting work in the following areas:

* Family economic security (in the vicinity of Cuba, NM)
* Housing security (in the vicinity of Santa Fe, NM)
* Community healing and development (in the vicinity of Aztec, NM)
* Mental health (Albuquerque Metro area)

The YCIF will award general operating grants intended to help nonprofits deepen projects they intend to do in their communities over the coming three-year period. Four grants will be awarded to 501(c)(3) nonprofits or organizations with a fiscal sponsor doing work in any of the above areas.

In this first year of grantmaking, FFE will award each of the selected grantees a $35,000 Year 1 grant that is intended to support organizational capacity and planning for the collaborative work taking place over the next two years. These initial grants are intended to support groups as they engage with the partner high school and orient their work. Upon submission of a basic report at the end of Year 1, grantees will be eligible for Year 2 and Year 3 grants in the amount of $75,000 per year.

All funding provided to nonprofit organizations will be unrestricted and intended to support the general work and mission of the organization. Student intern stipends will be funded separately and will not require a financial investment by the nonprofit. The number of interns and the scope of their work will be determined by each participating high school in consultation with the nonprofit partner.

**Organization Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Phone Number:**

**Grant Application Contact Name:**

**Grant Contact Title:**

**Grant Contact Email:**

**Grant Contact Phone Number:**

**Which of these best describes your organization?**

\_\_ 501c3 nonprofit (What is your federal tax id?)

\_\_ Nonprofit organization with a fiscal sponsor

**If you are working with a fiscal sponsor, what is the name and address of the sponsor?**

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**1. Indicate with an X in which area you are doing work and review the question associated with that work area.**

\_\_ Family Economic Security (Cuba) – *What would it take for students at Cuba High School to mobilize our communities over time to address key challenges, including water stability and economic development, in ways that honor our culture, include people who have challenges in participating because of language or transportation challenges, and educate our community about these issues?*

\_\_ Community Healing & Development (Aztec) – *How can student leaders at Vista Nueva High School: a) play a direct role in increasing community engagement in our town; b) support events that bring people together; and c) build institutions that anchor and support these activities? How can students ensure that these activities and other services reach those most in need of connection and wellness, especially those who are housing insecure?*

\_\_ Housing Security (Santa Fe) – *What would it take for Desert Sage Academy students (working with a nonprofit partner) to play a direct role in addressing the immediate needs of unhoused people while also contributing to longer-term solutions to housing challenges in Santa Fe? What skills and experiences could participating students build working with you as a partner?*

\_\_ Mental Health (Albuquerque) – *How can students at Gordon Bernell Charter School promote a deeper understanding about the huge burden that mental health challenges impose on all of us as communities, families and individuals; advocate for more high quality mental health services; and create more effective ways for people to find and connect with those services and one another, especially young people who may not have complete control of their schedules?*

**2. Please provide a one-page description (no more than 750 words) of how your organization’s mission and work address the question associated with the area that you selected in Number 1 above.**

**3. Please provide a two-page summary (no more than 1,000 words) addressing the following:**

* Describe your organization’s approach to working with young people in pursuit of your mission **OR** describe what you would like to learn about integrating young people more deeply into your work.
* Please describe the types of skills and responsibilities participating students might experience through an internship with your organization.
* What is your strategy for engaging hard-to-reach community members that are most impacted by your work? How will you work to center these most-impacted community members?
* Describe the organization’s existing work that will be supported by this grant.
* Describe any community collaborations that will help you make this work possible.

**4.** **Provide a project budget for the first year (year one) and your organization’s most current one-year operating budget. Please ensure your project budget indicates any other sources of funding (committed, received).**