

Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) Grant Guidance

FY27 / AY2026-27

Purpose

The Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) invites faculty, staff, and students from across the Universities of Wisconsin to apply for internal grant funding that advances OCE's mission:

Empowering communities throughout the Universities of Wisconsin to engage deeply in democratic life through dialogue, collaboration, and civic action.

Funding Overview

A total of **\$180,000** is available for this grant cycle and will support projects implemented during:

- **Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) / Academic Year 2026-27 (AY26-27)**

Projects should promote one or more of the following:

- Civil dialogue
- Civic participation
- Viewpoint diversity
- Academic freedom
- Free expression

Funding may be used to support:

- Research
- Events and related activities
- Assessment initiatives
- Curriculum development
- Professional development

Budget Considerations

Applicants should identify a **Workday Fund 101 or 102 cost center and program** when preparing their proposal. While this information is not required for award consideration, having it available helps facilitate timely processing and transfer of funds if your project is selected.

Be sure to review your university's fringe rates (use the 'All Funds' rates, NOT Extramural). [See composite fringe benefit rates.](#)

In the interest of transparency, we have allocated the following:

- Approximately **20%** of available funding is earmarked for **salary expenses**
- Approximately **80%** is earmarked for **supplies and expenses (S&E)**

Applicants are encouraged to keep this funding distribution in mind when developing project budgets.

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a committee. The following criteria are used in the review:

1. Alignment with OCE Mission and Vision
2. Project Impact and Outcomes
3. Project Design and Methodology
4. Assessment and Evaluation Plan
5. Qualifications and Capacity
6. Budget and Cost Effectiveness
7. Contribution to Campus Culture and Climate

Timeline

Milestone	Date
Applications Open	September 1, 2026
Applications Due	October 1, 2026
Recipients Announced	October 30, 2026 (or earlier)
Grant Funds Expended	June 30, 2027*

* Unless carryover approval has been granted.

Award Recipient Requirements

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Expend funds by **June 30, 2027**, unless carryover approval has been granted.
- Work with their institution's budget and business offices to obtain any necessary carryover approvals.
- Return any unexpended funds not approved for carryover to the Universities of Wisconsin Administration (UWSA) central fund at the conclusion of the grant period.

- Submit a final report within **60 days** of the conclusion of the grant-funded initiative outlining project activities, outcomes, and impacts.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with their sponsored programs, grants, business, or budget offices as appropriate to ensure institutional requirements are met.

Before You Apply

The application form does not allow applicants to save and return later. We strongly encourage applicants to prepare responses in advance. See the prepared application questions and budget templates.

Apply: [OCE Application Link](#)

Questions?

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