



Civic Engagement Service-Learning Award 2026

APPLY NOW! Awarding up to \$1,500 to fund one or multiple local service projects

Illinois State University is committed to encouraging its students to participate in Civic Engagement activities. Senior Professional members have promoted community service throughout their careers and in retirement.

Co-sponsored by Senior Professionals, the Center for Civic Engagement and the State Farm Foundation, up to \$1,500 will be awarded for local Civic Engagement projects that are led by ISU students. Projects must be completed by Friday, May 8, 2026.

Civic Engagement

For the purpose of this project, Civic Engagement is defined as an activity in which students address social issues or become engaged in direct action aimed at the goals of civic improvement and education/reflection within the local community.

Who Can Apply?

Illinois State University Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) or students participating in an in-course project are eligible to apply. Projects must take action on social issues to improve, enhance, expand, educate and/or create awareness within Bloomington-Normal and/or McLean County and be student-led.

Application Procedure:

The application form is available online at:

<http://seniorprofessionals.illinoisstate.edu/>

Criteria:

Applicants will be evaluated on the extent they address the following:

- How the project will engage the Bloomington-Normal/McLean County community
- Description of the project (what is the project, how many people will be involved, etc.)
- Goals of the project (what will be accomplished)
- Financial breakdown (dollar amounts of items listed in importance to the project)
- Advisor's/Professor's approval and contact information on application form
- Support material (optional)

Senior Professional Participation:

Senior Professional members are available to act as consultants for your project, if desired. This group has networks throughout the local community, serves as board members for various civic groups and has knowledge of community resources.

The Grant Recipients:

At least one student representative must attend the Senior Professional Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026, and make a brief presentation regarding the project. (Other student representatives and a faculty or staff member will be invited to attend as well.)

A brief written summary of project results is also required, to be turned in by May 8.

Civic Engagement Grant 2025-2026 Timeline

November 21	Applications are due to the Senior Professional office by 3 pm.
December 5	Winners are announced and contacted.
January 23	Money is available for projects.
April 26	Presentations are made at Senior Professionals' Annual Meeting.
May 8	Project must be completed and a written summary of the project submitted to Senior Professionals.

Applications are available at: <http://seniorprofessionals.illinoisstate.edu/>

For more information, contact Senior Professionals Coordinator Laura Kowalczyk at (309) 438-2818 or lakowa2@ilstu.edu.