

NOBLECAUSE GRANTS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To celebrate its tenth year fostering volunteerism and service, Noblehour.com is awarding **\$1,000,000** through NobleCause, a grant competition to support institutions and agencies in mobilizing volunteers to address the greatest challenges facing their communities. Made possible by the generosity of an anonymous donor within the GiveWell Community Foundation, a total of 104 organizations will receive grants of \$6,500. In addition, six awards of \$50,000 are available to organizations that will convene partners to develop volunteer leaders who will contribute to furthering the number of volunteers addressing significant local issues.

NobleCause supports the building of volunteerism and service-learning, which leads to improved civic identity and social responsibility while also raising awareness of local issues and impacting local need. NobleCause also hopes to learn with grantees about best practices associated with volunteerism and impact, and to share what is learned more broadly.

Applicants are asked to:

- Identify a local issue and an appropriate volunteer or service-learning activity to address it
- Recruit and support community members and/or students as volunteers
- Enhance the civic identity and social responsibility of participating volunteers

This grant is a one-time opportunity. Funding is not committed for more than one year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to apply for funding, your organization must have been in existence for at least one year prior to August 2015, and choose to apply in one category:

- Grades 9-12 and school districts
- Post-secondary institutions
- Nonprofits with 501(c)3/public charity status

It is the intent of NobleCause to make **\$6,500 awards in each and every state**, with 50% of the total awards going to high schools and/or school districts, 25% to post-secondary institutions, and 25% to those with 501(c)3/public charity status. It is the intent of NobleCause to make **two \$50,000 grant awards in each category**. However, the funder reserves the right to remain flexible in grantmaking policies due to applications received.

GRANT ACTIVITIES

Applicants are asked to design a volunteer or service-learning activity that addresses a local cause or issue. Funding may be used to further an existing activity (generally less than two years old) or to start a new activity. All applicants need to delineate how they will:

- Recruit and equip volunteers, with particular attention to fostering their civic identity and social responsibility.
- Integrate volunteer reflection regarding their growth in civic and social responsibility.
- Create or foster community partnerships.

Some preference may be given to high school/school district and post-secondary applications that include:

- Distributing a portion of the grant as mini-grants to students who will lead activities.
- Connecting the activity to an academic course (i.e., service-learning).
- Working with a community partner (\$6,500 grants preferred; \$50,000 grant required).
- Integrating a strategy to sustain the activities or initiative (\$6,500 grants preferred; \$50,000 grant required).

All grantees will be expected to:

- Learn from and share their experiences and best practices
- Contribute a portrayal of their activities to a video or photograph competition
- Track and measure volunteer engagement. Grantees may select to receive a license for NobleHour for up to one year -- **no purchase required**, one time implementation fee waived -- to assist in collecting data on the following indicators:
 - Number of volunteers mobilized
 - Number of hours of service provided by volunteers
 - Number of people served through the activity
 - Economic impact of the project
 - Reflections from service participants on their experience
- Complete a mid-year and year-end evaluation that includes:
 - Final budget report on how funds were used
 - Quantitative data indicators (outlined above)
 - Qualitative data and evidence of impact

FUNDING USES AND RESTRICTIONS

Examples of how NobleCause funding may be used include:

- Purchase of supplies that facilitate volunteer activities
- Professional development that results in more volunteers or facilitators recruited and/or equipped
- Travel expenses associated with volunteer activities
- Facilities' fees associated with volunteer activities
- Materials to support volunteer recruitment

NobleCause intends to further volunteer activity that addresses local issues and challenges. **Grant dollars CANNOT be applied to:**

- Benefits (i.e., all mandated federal and state/local payroll taxes, health, vision, dental, life insurance, 401K contribution) associated with salaries
- Indirect costs including office and support expenses, overhead, administrative expenses, rent, and utilities
- Capital purchases for the grantee, including computer hardware and software, furniture, office
- Endowment funds
- Payments of debts
- Engaging in partisan political activities, or endorsing or participating in activities that include advocacy for or against political parties, candidates, or proposed legislation
- Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes
- Religious proselytization
- NobleCause does not make grants to **small businesses** or **individuals** for any purpose

2015-16 FUNDING CYCLE

- **September 30, 2015** – NobleCause Grants announced
- **October 22nd, 2015** – Request for Proposals released; Grant site open to receive applications
- **December 6th, 2015** – Application Submission Deadline
- **March 2016** – Notification of funding awards and award presentations
- **April 2016 - April 2017** – Funds distributed and activities underway
- **Spring 2017** – Grantees submit year-end reports and compete in video competition
- **May 1, 2017** – All reports and grant-related activities complete

QUESTIONS?

FAQs and additional resources can be found online at
<http://www.treetopcommons.com/noblecausefaq>

If you need additional information, e-mail your questions to noblecause@noblehour.com.