



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (CFN) # CEP-YCEA-01

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Issued on April 12, 2017

USAID's Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites individuals, organizations, or institutions to nominate young men and women or informal youth groups to be considered for CEP's Annual Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA).

YCEA will honor successful young men and women (aged 18 - 29) and informal youth groups, the latter consisting of at least three members, that have demonstrated exemplary commitment to improving the life of their community or that of the society at large by undertaking actions that address issues of public concern at any level in Macedonia. YCEA will be awarded for actions that the nominees have undertaken during January - December 2016.

YCEA will recognize initiatives by young men and women or informal youth groups that have demonstrated exceptional creativity and innovation, and have brought about tangible results in improving the community or society's wellbeing due to the nominee's actions. Upon award, CEP will support future initiatives by YCEA winners through in-kind grants.

I. ABOUT CEP

The Civic Engagement Project (CEP) is a five-year USAID-funded program that works to achieve two objectives: (1) strengthened influence of civil society organizations (CSOs) on policies and programs related to priority issues of citizen concern; and (2) increased and sustained youth engagement in promoting the wellbeing of their communities.

CEP is being implemented by the East West Management Institute (EWMI) in partnership with: the Foundation for Internet and Society "Metamorphosis," the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), the Foundation for Open Society in Macedonia (FOSM), and the National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM).

NYCM will manage the Youth Civic Engagement Award. NYCM is a registered network of 55 members that include youth CSOs, CSOs that run dedicated programs for youth, and youth wings of political parties. Through its eight regional centers, NYCM reaches out to a wide net of

CSOs and youth throughout the country. For more information about NYCM, please, visit <http://www.nms.org.mk>

II. ABOUT THE AWARD

CEP will award up to four Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA) to young women and men or informal youth groups in Macedonia that have demonstrated strong commitment and have undertaken important actions that have brought about significant positive changes in the life of communities or the society at large. Through their activities, YCEA recipients will personify examples of outstanding youth civic engagement. Civic engagement encompasses individual and collective actions that serve to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic engagement can take many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement. It can include efforts to directly address an issue of public concern, work with others in the community to solve the problem, and/or interact with public institutions to address this problem.

In reviewing nominations for YCEA, the selection committee will consider the extent to which the nominees have demonstrated:

- Leadership and innovation in defining and addressing issues of public concern;
- Vision for improvements at the community, regional, or national level that are systemic and sustainable; and
- Depth and breadth in their civic engagement commitment.

a. Award categories

CEP will award YCEA as follows:

Individual: up to two awards for young men and women (age 18 - 29).

Informal youth groups: up to two awards.

b. Eligibility

The young men and women and informal youth group members nominated for YCEA should:

- Be citizens of Macedonia;
- Have been 18 to 29 years old by December 31, 2016;
- Have performed the work or services for which they are being nominated, within the Republic of Macedonia at local, regional, or national level;
- Demonstrate that they have been **fundamental** or **integral part** to the conveyance of the action, i.e., it is unlikely that the activities would have occurred without their participation.

The number of awards available is strictly limited and therefore, however valuable their engagement, not everyone can receive recognition. It is important to realize that an award will not automatically be granted following a submission of nomination.

c. Nomination criteria

Ideal candidates for YCEA would be young men and women or informal youth groups that:

- Have displayed exceptional commitment and dedication towards contributing to the community or society at large through exemplary action and service;
- Is/are considered as role model by peers and the wider community;
- Have demonstrated creative and innovative approaches to addressing the issue of public concern that he/she/they has/have worked on;
- Have applied creative and innovative approaches to engaging community members and other groups in addressing the respective issue of public concern;
- Have developed or supported opportunities for youth to participate in activities that benefit others;
- Have engaged people with fewer opportunities and socially marginalized groups in efforts to address the respective issues of public concern;
- Have undertaken actions that bring about long lasting solutions to the respective issue of public concern;
- Might have effectively combined academic learning or research with community service outside the school or university;
- As part of the actions undertaken to address the respective issue of public concern, have made creative use of digital technology to make available information that otherwise wouldn't be accessible.

CEP will **not accept** or review nominations for activities conducted by individuals or groups that include:

- Support for or lobbying on behalf of a political party;
- Religious activities;
- Academic research or work for personal professional development.

d. Award

Upon award, YCEA winners will be awarded **in-kind grants**¹ to support the advancement of their civic engagement work. To that end, they will be invited to submit a brief concept paper that outlines their actual goals and needs. The in kind grants will be:

- Up to \$1,500 for Individual YCEA category;
- Up to \$3,000 for Group YCEA category.

III. NOMINATION PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Young men and women and informal youth groups can be nominated for YCEA by any individual, public or private institution, organization or by members of the community. An independent YCEA committee will review all nominations and select the winners in each category. Awards will be announced and presented during the YCEA Ceremony that will be held in Skopje during May 2017.

To nominate candidates for YCEA, please, accurately complete the YCEA Nomination Form attached and follow the instructions in each section closely. It is important that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee, and explain their actual contribution and impact. Please, send in examples of the Nominee's work (e.g., videos, photographs, books, articles, etc.). These supporting materials should not exceed 5 (five) pages. All nomination materials will remain property of CEP and will not be returned.

Nominators may submit the nomination package via e-mail at: **applications@nms.org.mk**, with a subject line **CEP-YCEA-01**, or in hard copy in a sealed envelope to: National Youth Council of Macedonia, Miroslav Krlezha 52-2, 1000 Skopje, att: Mr. Martin Miloshevski. Should you choose to mail the hard copy of the nomination package, please note that the time when the sealed envelope is delivered to NYCM will be considered to be the date and time of the nomination, not the time the when the envelope is mailed. The mail should be delivered to NYCM office by **12:00, May 5, 2017**.

For questions and clarifications, please, write to martin.miloshevski@nms.org.mk. CEP will post the responses to the questions on NYCM's web site. Please refer to the timeline table for specific deadlines.

Timeline

¹ ***In-Kind Grant** is a type of grant whereby goods and services are procured by CEP on behalf of and in close consultation with the respective YCEA winner.

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| Call for Nominations launch date | April 12, 2017 |
| Deadline for submitting questions and clarification requests to CEP | April 17, 2017 |
| Date when CEP will issue clarifications | April 20, 2017 |
| DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS | 12:00, MONDAY, MAY 5, 2017 |
| Review of nominations | May 8 - 19, 2017 |
| Notification of YCEA winners | May 26, 2017 |
| YCEA Ceremony | By June 15 |
| <i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i> | |

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