



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (CFN) # CEP-YCEA-03

### YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

***Send your nomination no later than April 25, 2019!***

USAID's Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites individuals, organizations, institutions, media, businesses and members of the community to nominate one or more people or organizations from one of the following categories: individual young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth civil society organizations (CSOs) to be considered for CEP's Annual Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA).

CEP is a five-year USAID-funded program that works to achieve two objectives: (1) strengthen constructive engagement by CSOs on policies and issues of public concern; and (2) increase and sustain youth engagement in public life in North Macedonia. CEP is implemented by East West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI), in partnership with four local CSOs: Metamorphosis, Foundation for Internet and Society (Metamorphosis), the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), the Foundation Open Society - Macedonia (FOSM), and the National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM). NYCM manages the YCEA. For more information about NYCM, please, visit <http://www.nms.org.mk>

#### **I. ABOUT THE AWARD**

CEP will award up to four Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA) to successful young men and women (aged 18 - 29), informal youth groups (consisting of at least three members), and youth CSOs 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 North Macedonia. YCEA will be awarded for actions that the nominees have undertaken **during January - December 2018**.

YCEA will recognize initiatives by young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs that have demonstrated: **a clear vision** for improvements at the community, regional, or national

level that are systemic and sustainable in addressing a priority societal and/or community concern; **exceptional creativity, innovation, and leadership** in defining and addressing issues of public concern; and have **brought about tangible results** in improving the community or society's wellbeing due to the nominee's actions.

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.

Upon award, CEP will support future initiatives by YCEA winners through in-kind grants<sup>1</sup> (for individual and informal groups category), or grants (for registered youth CSOs).

#### **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 and/or youth CSOs:** up to two awards.

#### **b. Eligibility**

- The young men and women and informal youth group members nominated for YCEA should:
  - (i) Be citizens of North Macedonia;
  - (ii) Have been 18 to 29 years old by December 31, 2018;
  - (iii) Have performed the work or services for which they are being nominated, within the Republic of North Macedonia at local, regional, or national level;
  - (iv) 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.
  
- Youth CSOs legally registered in North Macedonia should:

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<sup>1</sup> **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.

- (i) Be a **Macedonian CSO**, meaning that it is managed by a governing body the simple majority of which are citizens or lawful permanent residents of North Macedonia;
- (ii) Have at least **two years of operational experience**;
- (iii) **Must not be a debtor** of the Government of North Macedonia and must have cancelled any debt to the state or arranged for debt collection by the state prior to receiving the first disbursement of grant funds by the Project;
- (iv) Must operate as an **independent non-politically affiliated organization**;
- (v) Must not be debarred, suspended, excluded or otherwise ineligible to receive US government funding.

Civil servants, political appointees, members of the current parliament, staff of public broadcasting companies, and/or leaders of political parties cannot be nominated for YCEA.

The number of YCEAs 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, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs 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, including the poor, ethnic minorities, women victims of violence, disabled people, LGBTI persons, etc., 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 **grants** 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 grants will be:

- Up to \$1,500 for **Individual** YCEA category;
- Up to \$3,000 for **Informal youth groups and/or youth CSOs** YCEA category.

## **II. NOMINATION PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs can be nominated to be considered for YCEA by individuals, organizations, institutions, media, businesses 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 June 2018.

To nominate candidates for YCEA, please **complete the YCEA Nomination Form** attached and follow the instructions in each section. 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-03**, or in hard copy in a sealed envelope to: National Youth Council of Macedonia, Aminta Treti br. 29/1-3, 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 **16:00h, April 25, 2019.**

For questions and clarifications, please, write to [martin.miloshevski@nms.org.mk](mailto: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

Call for Nominations launch date	March 25, 2019
Deadline for submitting questions and clarification requests to CEP	April 12, 2019
Date when CEP will issue clarifications	April 16, 2019
<b>DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS</b>	<b>16:00, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019</b>
Review of nominations	April 29 – May 10, 2019
Notification of YCEA winners	May 15, 2019
YCEA winners submit project outlines	By May 30, 2019
YCEA Ceremony	<b>TBD in June, 2019</b>
<i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i>	

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