

NEW MCCORMICK GRANTS FURTHER STRENGTHEN YOUTH CIVIC EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT IN ILLINOIS

CHICAGO, March 26, 2014—When it comes to civic learning in schools, Illinois doesn't make the cut. Illinois is one of 10 states that does not require a standalone civics or government course and its standardized tests ignore social studies altogether. In an effort to fill this void and offer high-quality civic learning opportunities for youth ages 12 to 22, the [Robert R. McCormick Foundation](#) is investing \$1.4 million in Chicago-area civic education and engagement initiatives in 2014.

“By supporting work that exposes young people to civic knowledge and provides meaningful experiences to engage with civic institutions, we can help fully prepare our youth to take the reins and become active and effective participants in the civic life of our community,” said David Hiller, President and CEO of the McCormick Foundation.

“The civic education challenges we are facing here in Illinois and around the country are immense,” said John Sirek, Civics Program director, McCormick Foundation. “Years of neglect and the ongoing deluge of mandatory testing have all but removed civics from our classrooms. The Foundation is committed to increasing the numbers of students receiving high-quality civic learning opportunities and supporting policy initiatives that will bring civics back for all of our students.”

The McCormick Foundation is also investing \$1.1 million in 2014 to support a number of initiatives working to improve civic health in Chicago through work on government transparency, redistricting reform and participatory budgeting.

2014 First-Round Grants Supporting Civic Education and Engagement

1. [Citizen Advocacy Center](#), Chicago
\$94,000 two-year grant
To support youth civic education programs and policy initiatives which provide information and guidance to citizens, students, educators and policymakers on becoming involved in the community and the democratic process.
2. [City Year Chicago](#), Chicago
\$300,000 three-year grant
To support City Year's Corps Member training and the Leadership Development Program.
3. [Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights](#), Chicago
\$60,000 one-year grant
To support the Youth Civic Leadership Academy which engages youth in the Chicago area in community programs with a focus on civic education, service and leadership.
4. [Mikva Challenge](#), Chicago
\$125,000 one-year grant
To support youth democratic participation, policymaking and problem-solving programs.

2014 First-Round Grants Supporting Civic Health

1. [Civic Consulting Alliance](#), Chicago
\$200,000 two-year grant
To support efforts to bring business experts, public and nonprofit sector leaders together to improve Chicago's civic health, livability and global competitiveness.

About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets. For more information, please visit www.McCormickFoundation.org, follow us on [Twitter](#), or like us on [Facebook](#).

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