



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (CFN) #CEP-YCEA-04

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Please send your nominations no later than July 20, 2020.

USAID's Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites nominations for this year's Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA). Individuals organizations, institutions, media, businesses or members of the community can submit a nomination for an individual young person who has been active in their community or engaged in a topic of public importance, or they can nominate an informal group or formal organization that has promoted young people to be civically engaged or active in their community.

CEP is a five-year initiative that aims to strengthen the linkages between citizens and government. It supports civil society organizations (CSOs) to constructively and effectively engage government institutions on anti-corruption, transparency, and rule of law issues, and it also promotes young people to become more engaged in public life in North Macedonia.

CEP is implemented by East West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI), in partnership with three local CSOs: Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet and Society, the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), 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 six Youth Civic Engagement Awards (YCEA) to successful young men and women (age 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 the period January 2019 to June 2020**.

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 grants¹ (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:** up to two awards.
- **Youth CSO's:** 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) Are between 18 and 29 years old by June 1, 2020;
 - (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;

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.

- (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:
 - (i) Be a **CSO registered in North Macedonia**, 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** to 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 CEP;
 - (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 \$2,500 for **Informal youth groups**; and
- Up to \$2,500 for **Youth CSOs**.

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. Awards will be announced and presented during the YCEA Ceremony that will be held in Skopje during September 2020.

To nominate candidates for YCEA, please go to the [following link](#) and follow the instructions in the nomination forms. It is important that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee, and explain their actual contribution and impact.

The deadline for submitting the nominations is 16:00h, July 20, 2020.

The nominated candidates that meet the criteria will be shortlisted and subjected to public voting process.

For questions and clarifications, please, write to filip.kulakov@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	June 25, 2020
Deadline for submitting questions and clarification requests to CEP	July 10, 2020
Date when CEP will issue clarifications	July 13, 2020
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS	16:00, July 20, 2020
Review of nominations and shortlist of nominees	July 20 - July 25, 2020
Public voting process	July 25 - August 15, 2020
Notification of YCEA winners	August 16, 2020
YCEA winners submit project outlines	By August 30, 2020
YCEA Ceremony	TBD in September 2020
<i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i>	

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