

Sen. Davis

Request Name: Young Diplomats of Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy

Description: Youth participating in the Young Diplomats of Utah program learn and engage in a year-long leadership program that enhances their cultural and global awareness, develops leadership skills, teaches them about the broader community through volunteerism and service, and connects them to educational and career opportunities through the U.S. Department of State and other international initiatives. Funding for this program would allow the UCCD to hire a full-time position to manage the program, expand its outreach and infrastructure so that participants represent the diversity of our state, and incorporate technology, allowing UCCD to implement this program as a statewide initiative.

Agency: Economic Development

Funding Amount: General Fund - \$40,000 – 2021 (Ongoing)

Description of the funding item:

The next generation of leaders, researchers, business owners, and decision-makers are fiercely setting the course for global politics, pushing for environmental progress, advancing technology and health, and advocating for the world's most vulnerable populations.

Not keeping up with the tenacity of youth by preparing them to become effective leaders in a changing world - where local interests are intertwined with the global community - is one of the most significant challenges facing our state.

Utah has talented youth across the state, eager for the chance to experience the world. However, too many young Utahans fall behind their counterparts from other states in their knowledge and understanding of diplomacy, world affairs, geography, and public policy.

Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy closes this gap through its Young Diplomats of Utah program. This program empowers youth (individuals under the age of 35) to become globally engaged citizens. They enhanced their cultural and global awareness, develop leadership skills, learn about the broader community through volunteerism and service, and connect to educational and career opportunities through the U.S. Department of State and other international initiatives.

All activities of the Young Diplomats of Utah program are embedded in diplomatic theory emphasizing collaboration, democracy, and value in differing perspectives and strengths.

Youth participating in the Young Diplomats of Utah learn and engage in a year-long leadership program that develops their:

- Renewed enthusiasm in Utah and the United State's "political culture" by examining case studies and participating in community council events;
- Cultural competency by engaging in festivals, conversations, and activities hosted by diverse communities;
- Familiarity with political economy as it relates to Utah by arranging meetings and training with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, World Trade Center Utah, and various Chambers of Commerce;
- Knowledge of governmental structure and process of policy and decision-making by observing the legislative session and advocating for policies;
- Community Engagement through service and volunteerism;
- Leadership skills through diplomacy simulation exercises (using negotiation and critical thinking skills in information and formal processes);

- Writing and presentation skills.

UCCD baseline data for 2019 is as follows:

- 25 youth engaged in the leadership program participating in cultural events, leadership training, service projects, and world affairs lectures and conversations;
- 120 youth participated in diplomacy simulations;
- 6 high schools participated in Academic WorldQuest – a global trivia competition – where the winning team will represent Utah in Washington DC at the national competition;
- 10 Iraqi high school students visited Utah for a short-term exchange program around the theme of entrepreneurship;
- Volunteered 300 hours of their time addressing community needs;
- It's also important to mention that the 2019 total youth program budget was \$50,000 managed by a part-time AmeriCorps.

Additionally, youth participants have shared the following thoughts with us:

"What a life-changing opportunity! Even if I might not see each of my global friends again, I am forever connected to them."

"Connecting with other youth from around the world has taught me that acknowledging and growing from my weaknesses will make me a strong leader some day. And I know I can make the world a better place."

"I learned that the biggest tree comes from a small seed. I am that small seed and I am unstoppable."

What is the statewide public purpose?

Piloted in 2018 and implemented as an official program in 2019 managed by a part-time AmeriCorps, the Young Diplomats program served youth along the Wasatch Front.

Additional funding from the State of Utah would allow UCCD to hire a full-time position to manage the program, expand its outreach and infrastructure so that participants represent the diversity of our state, and incorporate technology, allowing UCCD to implement this program as a statewide initiative. The results of expanding this program would have a higher return on investment for the state of Utah since each community in Utah has its own perspectives and strengths.

Additionally, other states are not investing in their youth to become leaders using diplomacy as a tool for this knowledge. However, investment in our future leaders to be globally involved will result in individuals who are locally oriented, globally competent, and have the skills to navigate a complex world. This investment will result in Utah maintaining our global competitiveness and while, once again, leading the United States in this arena.

Itemized budget:

YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF UTAH 2020 BUDGET			
REVENUE		EXPENSES	
YDOU COMMITMENTS	TOTALS	PROGRAM-MANAGEMENT COSTS	TOTALS
UCCD Fundraiser	20,000	Program Management Costs + Fringe Benefits (25%) + Indirect Costs (10%)	55,000
Federal Funding - Youth Programs (World Learning, IREX, Global Ties U.S.)	36,000		55,000
EerNisse Family Foundation	2,000	PROGRAMMING COSTS	
Westminster (In-kind)	5,000	Facilities & Space	5,000
COMMITTED TOTALS	63,000	Trainings & Workshops	10,000
YDOU PENDING REQUESTS		Transportation	8,000
State of Utah	40,000	Events	10,000
PENDING TOTALS	40,000	Outreach, background checks, etc	5,000
TOTAL REQUESTED	103,000	Supplies for Participants (Meals & Snacks)	3,000
		Awards	1,000
		Technology Infrastructure	6,000
			48,000
		YDOU TOTALS	103,000

Performance measures (How will we know that the project was successful?)

1. Youth participating in Utah will represent various communities throughout all of Utah;
2. Youth's global knowledge will increase, and the role Utah plays as a global partner will increase;
3. Youth will create a story-telling component of their leadership training experience that will be used to market Utah as an innovative, global partner.
4. UCCD will track the long-term impact of the program, following up with participants ongoing to capture qualitative and quantitative data. UCCD will release a quantitative and qualitative report in June 2021.

Current state support

Yes, \$50,000 for its International Visitors Leadership Program. The funding request for Young Diplomats of Utah is a new and separate funding request as an independent program.