



**Corporation for National and Community Service**  
**2009 Learn and Serve America School-Based Grants**

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The 2009 School-Based competition promotes service-learning within STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) courses at middle schools in economically disadvantaged areas. STEM was chosen as the academic focus because many students struggle to grasp STEM concepts taught through traditional didactic methods. Students will use STEM skills to address community problems such as energy conservation, childhood obesity, and water pollution. The middle grades are the focus because they are when young people may start to question whether staying in school is what they want to do. The models created by the STEM grants will demonstrate how service-learning projects can help disadvantaged youth understand the practical uses of STEM course content and motivate them to stay in school.

Additionally, a set-aside of School-Based competitive funds will support high-quality service-learning sponsored by Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories working with schools. Students will engage in service-learning projects that promote healthy communities and healthy youth by focusing on one or more of the following areas: Health and Wellness; Environment; Retention of Tribal Language, History, and Culture; Community Development/Economic Development; and Crime Prevention/Violence Prevention.

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**Legal Applicant:** Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

**Approved Funding:** \$359,667

**Contact Person:** Virgil Dupuis

**Contact Email:** [virgil\\_dupuis@skc.edu](mailto:virgil_dupuis@skc.edu)

**Contact Phone:** (406) 275-4899

**Program Summary:**

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe in Pablo, Montana will involve 250 students in service-learning projects focusing on protecting the environment and preserving native language and culture by teaching ancestral skills and the important values of native plants. In partnership with two local schools and the Salish Kootenai College, K-12 students will restore native ecosystems, plant a newly constructed Arlee walking path with native plants, and mentor others in ancestral skills. Participating students are from Two Eagle River School (TERS), an accredited tribal middle-high school and Nkwusm Salish Language Immersion School, an accredited K-8 elementary school.



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**Legal Applicant:** San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

**Approved Funding:** \$151,772

**Contact Person:** Lorraine Orosco

**Contact Email:** [lorraineo@sanpasqualtribe.org](mailto:lorraineo@sanpasqualtribe.org)

**Contact Phone:** (760) 751-1474

**Program Summary:**

The San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians in Valley Center, California will involve 100 students in service-learning projects focusing on the retention of the tribal culture and drug use prevention. In partnership with the local public schools and the San Pasqual Education Center, students will conduct family and culture nights, serve as trainers in tribal traditions, and create newsletters and videos. The students will also participate in social skills sessions to equip them with the knowledge and skills to serve the community and to stay away from risky behaviors, such as drug use.



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**Legal Applicant:** Hannahville Indian Community

**Approved Funding:** \$197,800

**Contact Person:** Rodney Lovell

**Contact Email:** [rodl@hannahville.org](mailto:rodl@hannahville.org)

**Contact Phone:** (906) 466-5397 x 217

**Program Summary:**

Hannahville Indian Community in Wilson, Michigan, will involve 180 students in service-learning projects focusing on environmental preservation, health and wellness, and community/economic development. In partnership with the Hannahville Indian School (Nah Tah Wahsh School), students will promote and conduct recycling, plant a community garden, create and distribute booklets on healthy foods grown locally, build a "Green" house that will be given to a needy tribal family, create walking trails, and conduct pet vaccination and licensing.



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**Legal Applicant:** Education Commission of the States

**Approved Funding:** \$926,640

**Contact Person:** Joann Henderson

**Contact Email:** [jhenderson@ecs.org](mailto:jhenderson@ecs.org)

**Contact Phone:** (303) 299-3636

**Program Summary:**

Through their existing national District Leaders for Civic Engagement and Service-Learning network and Schools for Success laboratory schools, the Education Commission of the States' (ECS) National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) is developing policies and programs that deepen civic engagement and service-learning in STEM-related disciplines. Participating schools with some service-learning experience will serve as laboratories for demonstrating the application of high-quality service-learning practice to address science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) objectives. Middle school students, the majority of whom are from disadvantaged circumstances, will be engaged in high-quality service-learning experiences to address critical student-identified needs and create healthier communities. An extensive training and technical assistance plan and professional learning communities in each school ensure a sustainable program.



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**Legal Applicant:** KIDS Consortium, Inc.

**Approved Funding:** \$600,000

**Contact Person:** Francine Rudoff

**Contact Email:** frudoff@kidsconsortium.org

**Contact Phone:** 207-784-0956

**Program Summary:**

Youth as Citizen Scientists is an initiative that brings together KIDS Consortium (KIDS), the Maine Math and Science Alliance, Brandeis University, three State Educational Agencies and experienced service-learning practitioners to enhance service-learning/STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) practice. The project will create a new service-learning/STEM guide for middle school teachers that integrates the KIDS model with national and state STEM standards and research-based instructional strategies focused on improving teachers' content knowledge and facilitating rigorous lesson, unit and curriculum design. The program will engage teachers, middle school students and adult volunteers through core STEM middle school courses to make schools and neighborhoods healthier and more environmentally sustainable.



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**Legal Applicant:** Massachusetts Department of Education

**Approved Funding:** \$1,150,000

**Contact Person:** Kristen McKinnon

**Contact Email:** kmckinnon@doe.mass.edu

**Contact Phone:** (781) 338-6306

**Program Summary:**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) Green in the Middle initiative will expand the practice of high-quality service-learning at the Middle School level as a strategy to accomplish five main goals: 1) increase school engagement among all students; 2) improve instruction in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subject areas; 3) develop 21st century skills in applied learning situations; 4) contribute to ecological and environmental initiatives; and 5) encourage students, particularly students who are low-income and/or traditionally underrepresented in the STEM fields, to consider STEM career paths. Through state level partnerships in support of STEM education, environmental/ecological preservation and repair, and the expansion of service-learning, the program will provide technical assistance, training, and resources to support and sustain the initiative and its goals. Curriculum that ties service-learning activities to STEM standards in the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework will be developed, tested and disseminated.



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**Legal Applicant:** National Youth Leadership Council

**Approved Funding:** \$899,974

**Contact Person:** Libby Rau

**Contact Email:** lrau@nylc.org

**Contact Phone:** (651) 999-7366

**Program Summary:**

The National Youth Leadership Council's (NYLC) Generator Go Green (G3) Initiative assists economically disadvantaged middle school students in creating a more environmentally sustainable community through STEM-focused service-learning. Students in 28 schools in 3 geographic areas (Minneapolis/Saint Paul; Chicago; the Gulf Coast) work with national and local partners to identify environmental sustainability issues in their communities and develop projects that address energy conservation needs. G3 sites form a cohort within NYLC's Generator School Network, an online network of schools working together to improve service-learning practice and achieve better academic, civic, and personal outcomes for students. G3 sites use a School Energy Audit curriculum adopted from the Alliance to Save Energy that includes information about energy efficiency.



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**Legal Applicant:** State of Hawaii, Department of Education

**Approved Funding:** \$900,000

**Contact Person:** Colleen Murakami

**Contact Email:** colleen\_murakami@notes.k12.hi.us

**Contact Phone:** (808) 733-9141x 321

**Program Summary:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education will support 10 middle schools in high poverty areas in a Stewards of the Islands initiative. Science and math classes at participating schools will incorporate service-learning projects focused on environmental challenges facing the islands, with the ultimate goal of using service-learning to improve student academic achievement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) courses through engaging in hands-on, purposeful activities. Students will work cooperatively to mitigate important community problems such as reducing ocean pollution, eradicating invasive species, and conserving resources such as fresh water. Strategic partners in support of the project include organizations and agencies such as the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College and Environmental Studies Department, Pacific American Foundation, Foundation for Critical Thinking (Sonoma California) and Youth Service Hawaii.





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**Legal Applicant:** Virginia Commonwealth University

**Approved Funding:** \$400,090

**Contact Person:** Catherine Howard

**Contact Email:** [choward@vcu.edu](mailto:choward@vcu.edu)

**Contact Phone:** (804) 828-8790

**Program Summary:**

The Division of Community Engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University will engage students at low-income middle schools in Virginia, DC, and surrounding states to meet local community needs in energy conservation, alternative clean energy innovation, and green jobs exploration through GreenSTEM@VCU. Through this intensive summer workshop, pairs of middle school science, technology, and mathematics teachers representing the highest-needs schools will receive hands-on training in high-quality service-learning and an integrated STEM curriculum to support students' academic engagement. Students will not only have the opportunity to work collaboratively with community partners to identify and address energy problems in their own communities, but will also begin to envision their own 'pathways out of poverty' through green jobs exploration.



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**Legal Applicant:** Youth Service America

**Approved Funding:** \$890,278

**Contact Person:** Silvia Golombek

**Contact Email:** [sgolombek@ysa.org](mailto:sgolombek@ysa.org)

**Contact Phone:** (202) 296-2992 x 116

### **Program Summary:**

Youth Service America will engage educators and students in 25 high-needs schools through the Semester of Service through Science program. Targeting urban and rural public middle schools with large populations of disadvantaged youth in 13 high-dropout states, the program will support teachers and local partners as they guide students in planning and implementing sustainable, environmentally-based projects connected to local issues such as climate change, green space availability, health effects, and disaster management in order to support civic engagement and to affirm students' efficacy in addressing local needs. The semester-long projects will kick off on the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service in January and conclude on Global Youth Service Day in April.