



## Call for Participation: Civic Solutions

[Apply](#) by COB November 15, 2022

AASCU's American Democracy Project (ADP) is pleased to invite you to participate in **Civic Solutions: Problem Solving through the Up to Us Case Competition**, a one-year initiative in partnership with [Up to Us](#). This program aims to increase students' understanding of the connections between fiscal policy and key issue areas by integrating creative problem-solving into spring 2023 classes via a national Up to Us competition.

This program recognizes that every academic department at AASCU institutions can contribute to this work. The Bipartisan Policy Center will publish a case competition brief on November 7, 2022. The case brief will encourage students to work in curricular spaces to evaluate policy issues, ranging from climate change to higher education accessibility to health care, through a fiscal lens. We encourage faculty from any discipline to apply to be part of this program and can accommodate up to 50 faculty for this project. Preference will be given to include as many unique AASCU campuses in this initiative as possible.

Throughout the spring semester, ADP and Up to Us will provide feedback and coaching on design thinking solutions for classes. The cohort will have the opportunity to share struggles and successes, and to submit a class solution to the national competition. In June, the cohort will convene in Boston at CLDE23. Up to Us will present the winners of the cohort competition during a plenary session in Boston, and students and faculty will be encouraged to present their solutions and designs to colleagues. During one CLDE session, Up to Us will highlight the top five student or student groups submitted through the Civic Solutions program.

### **Information on the Case Competition**

This is the first year for the Up to Us Case Competition, and faculty must be part of the Civic Solutions program in order to submit solutions. Learning objectives for students include critical thinking, policy analysis, problem solving, research strategies, and civic leadership.

Please see the [competition prize overview](#) and [competition timeline](#). Up to Us will judge all submissions by May 8. The top team solution will receive \$5000 and the top five teams will win \$1000. The leader from each of the top five teams will receive an all-expenses-paid professional development trip to and will present at the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE23) conference in Boston, Massachusetts from May 31-June 3, 2023. All students are welcome to attend the conference.

## **Expectations**

Participants will receive a \$300 stipend\*, which they can use how they see fit. They can apply for an additional \$300 from Up to Us in order to investigate or implement solutions during the course.

Participants also would be expected to:

- implement the Up to Us case brief into at least one of their spring courses *or* through a co-curricular initiative, with the intent to reach an average of twenty (20) students;
- include at least eight instances of outreach to elected officials (local or state leaders and/or members of Congress) during their spring course. This can be individual letters, conversations with elected officials, tweets, or other ways as selected by the faculty member. ADP can facilitate connections, as needed;
- share your mode of integration by March 1 (includes naming which prompt your class will choose, providing information on how you plan to integrate the challenge into your curriculum, and noting the number of students and type of class you are teaching);
- submit your class solution(s) to the case competition by April 14
- attend the 2023 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement conference (CLDE23) in Boston, Mass. From May 31-June 3, 2023.

## **Application**

Please complete [this application](#) by COB on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**. Selected participants will be notified by November 18, 2022.

## **\*Addendum**

The application will mention Collaboration Facilitators and gauge your interest in providing this level of activity. Any member of Civic Solutions cohort can also apply to be a Collaboration Facilitator, but a strong understanding of integrating economic policy into civic issues is preferred. Five members of the cohort will assist in explaining design-thinking and providing feedback (including fiscal policy) for the full cohort; they will begin work in September and deliver overarching planning materials to the full cohort. These Collaboration Facilitators may help with some coaching during the spring semester. They will receive \$1000, in addition to the regular stipend. If you are interested, please note that in the later section of the application.

We hope you will consider participating in this special initiative.

Cathy Copeland  
Director, The American Democracy Project  
American Association for State Colleges and Universities  
[Copelandc@aacscu.org](mailto:Copelandc@aacscu.org)



