

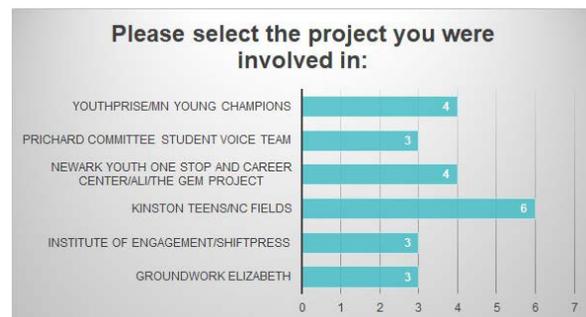
2020 Civic Spring Project

Final Report Survey Summary

As a part of the final grant report, we asked representatives from each of the six grantee organizations to answer ten key questions about their [Civic Spring Project \(CSP\)](#) experience. 23 CSP program administrators, program leaders, partners, and other participants shared their thoughts on what worked and where the program needs improvement. This data—analyzed by a third-party statistician—will help the Institute for Citizens & Scholars measure our effectiveness in supporting grantee capacity building. Here’s what we learned:

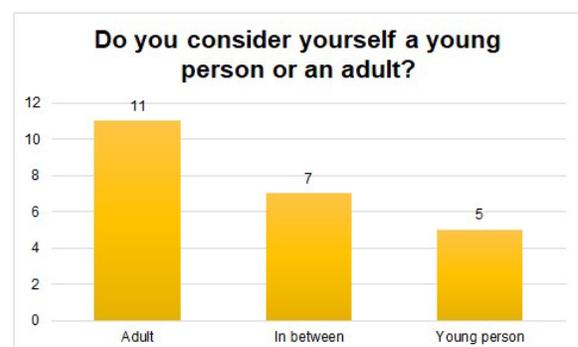
Respondents

The highest number of respondents represented projects delivered by youth-driven organizations—Kinston Teens/NC Fields (6) and Youthprise/MN Young Champions (4)—**and one of the NJ-based partnerships—**Newark Youth One Stop and Career Center/ALI/Gem Project (4).



The majority of the 23 respondents were project administrators and leaders who identified as adults.

The most frequently seen roles were split between Project Administrators (8) and Leadership at Lead Organization (8). Eleven (11) participants considered themselves adults, seven (7) considered themselves “in between,” and five (5) considered themselves youth.

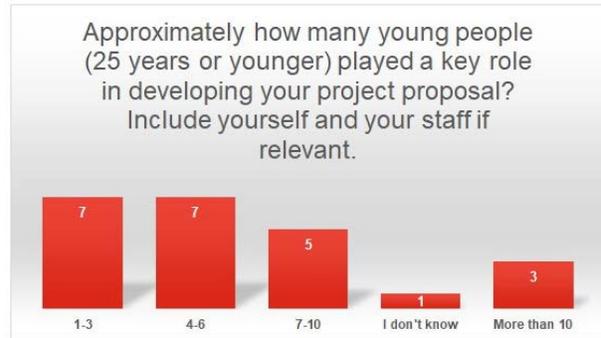


Project Design

The six projects were designed as summer initiatives with potential for post-summer extensions and longer-term measurements. Most of the participants launched their projects in July 2020 (13 participants). Projects were reported as having ended most commonly in October 2020 (9 participants) and November 2020 (7 participants).

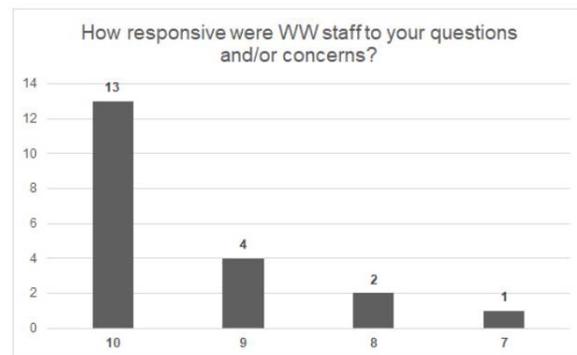
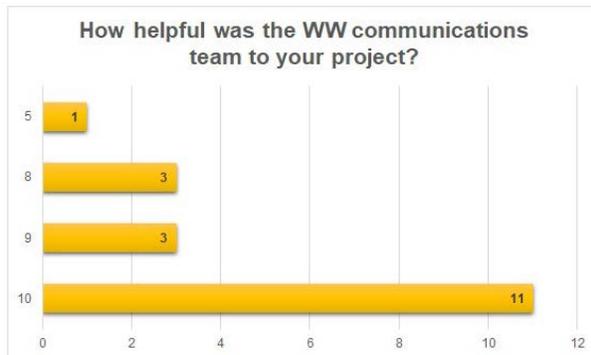
65% of the respondents indicated that more than three young people played a key role in the development of their project proposal. One of the selection criteria grantees needed to meet was

“meaningful youth participation in the development of the proposal.” The most frequent choices for how many young people played key roles in proposal projects were “1-3” and “4-6,” with seven (7) participants reporting 1-3 young people as having a key role in their proposal and seven (7) participants reporting 4-6 young people as having a key role in their proposal.



Experience with Citizens & Scholars

The overall majority of respondents found Citizens & Scholars staff¹ helpful and responsive to their needs. Participants reported an average rating of 9.5 for responsiveness of Citizens & Scholars staff to their questions and/or concerns, and an average rating of 9.2 for helpfulness of the Citizens & Scholars communications team.



However, some participants highlighted struggles with the grant fund disbursement process and balancing CSP requirements—particularly, the completion of weekly grant reports—with project management.

The general sentiment of the respondents regarding the disbursement of funds was that it was a relatively smooth process; there were few complaints and admiration was expressed for the timeliness of communications from Citizens & Scholars. It is worth noting, however, that some of the smaller organizations shared in their complaints. Chief amongst these was funding arriving later than expected, placing unexpected burden on the implementation process. Some organizations also expressed feeling overwhelmed and/or rushed during the initial phases, with frequent meetings taxing their smaller staff.

Sentiment regarding the weekly progress report was generally split. Half of the participants responded that their teams found the reports useful for documenting their progress and for adding an element of reflection to the process. The other half of the respondent pool expressed that the weekly reports were not helpful, as the additional work required to complete the report felt taxing on their staff; many reported not being able to complete the reports by the deadline.

¹ The CSP Final Report survey was conducted prior to the organization’s official name change. Any reference to WW should be read as the Institute for Citizens & Scholars.

Experience with CIRCLE



The Civic Spring projects will be independently evaluated by [Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement \(CIRCLE\)](#), part of Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life. CIRCLE is a nonpartisan, transdisciplinary research institute that focuses on the civic engagement of young people. In their role as a third-party evaluator, CIRCLE observed and participated in the Community of Practice meetings. They also conducted a workshop on effective data storytelling and served as an additional level of support for CSP participants.

Participants found the CIRCLE team helpful, reporting an average rating of 9.

Conclusion

Overall, participants had a good CSP experience, reporting an average rating of 9 for likelihood of recommending a colleague to apply to future funding. This data confirms that we were successful in helping the six grantee organizations complete their goals. The survey results also reveal that there is a need to create conditions that allow our grantees to do their work with greater ease, particularly for smaller, grassroots organizations.

