



# Civic Science Fellows

## **Request for Proposals: Civic Science Fellows Curriculum Development**

May 2023

The Civic Science Fellows (CSF) program (<https://civicsciencefellows.org>) is seeking to partner with a consultant or organization to develop a 12-month online curriculum for the next cohort of Civic Science Fellows. The curriculum will build on a learning program developed over two previous cohorts of Civic Science Fellows, adding further refinement and rigor in line with the goals and evolving insights of the collaborative group of partners coming together to create the program.

The CSF program is an interdisciplinary and cross-sector fellowship program designed to build a network of early-career leaders working to ensure that advances in science, health, and technology benefit everyone. Fellows come from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. Some have Ph.D.s in the social sciences or bench sciences; others come from backgrounds in journalism, informal science education, community organizing, or nonprofit management. The Civic Science Fellows learning program is designed to facilitate collaborative learning among the Fellows, providing Fellows with core, cross-disciplinary competencies relevant to civic science approaches in general as well as for their specific projects and future careers. The learning program serves a cohort-building function, and it supports learning and connection among others in the network as well.

The curriculum will be designed for primarily virtual environments, drawing on successful past elements, with feedback from past Fellows, host partners, the Practice and Science of Civic Science Advisory Committee, program team members, and others in the network throughout the process.

Specifically, the consultant will produce the following:

- A written set of learning competencies and curriculum to serve as a foundation of knowledge- and skill-building in the research and practice of civic science, building from existing civic science learning pillars and competencies identified by the Practice and Science of Civic Science Advisory Committee and iterating within existing structures in the CSF program.
- A set of synchronous and asynchronous programming and resource materials to support core learning competencies and curriculum within a 12-month timespan, drawing on fellowship programming from two previous cohorts as well as expert consultation on the multiple learning areas covered.
- A written plan for approaches to tailor the program and resources to Fellows of diverse backgrounds and interests for learning and innovative project development across the Fellowship.
- An evaluation plan to assess the proposed learning program.

## **Program Description**

The CSF program is an interdisciplinary and cross-sector fellowship program, building a network of emerging leaders working to ensure that advances in science, health, and technology benefit everyone. Civic Science Fellows are bridge builders, change agents, and communicators, connecting community leaders, institutions, and scientists to tackle societal problems together. They are embedded within host partner organizations to pursue projects that advance understanding and practice of civic science. Host

partners may include scientific societies, academic institutions, nonprofits, foundations, and media organizations. Fellows and host partners are based across the United States, with some Fellows working remotely from outside the United States as well. The program is supported by a partnership of philanthropic organizations, with lead coordination provided by the Science in Society Funder Collaborative and the Rita Allen Foundation.

#### **Civic Science Fellows Program Pillars:**

- Through the **Understanding Science in Context** pillar, we examine science as a way of seeking knowledge, comparing it with others and looking at the societal factors that influence its contours and application.
- Through the **Designing for Equity and Inclusion** pillar, we seek to understand and identify approaches to combat structural factors that lead science, science engagement, and decision-making around science to benefit and include some social groups over others.
- Through the **Communicating for the Future** pillar, we develop knowledge, tools, and skills to effectively open lines of connection between science and individual and community priorities, values, curiosity, and ways of knowing.
- Through the **Scaffolding for Learning and Impact** pillar, we explore ways of building knowledge, methods of engagement, paths toward change, and evaluation frameworks to help guide each stage of civic science project development.
- Through the **Leading for Systems Change** pillar, we cultivate approaches individuals and teams can adopt to spark civic science change at the level of structures, culture, networks, and norms, whether locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.

#### **Skills and Attributes**

The individual or organization working with us to create the curriculum should be able to demonstrate:

- Experience designing rigorous and engaging learning environments and curricula. This could include but is not limited to research, design, or project management experiences that advance human-centered design practices; or through other relevant experience creating cross-sector, interdisciplinary learning spaces and resources.
- Demonstrated interest in advancing collaborative and evidence-based learning design to support inclusive leadership.
- Experience or demonstrated interest in advancing program design and implementation, across multidisciplinary and multisector teams.
- Experience or demonstrated knowledge in science and in one or more aspects of science engagement or civic life—for example, policy, community organizing, public health, journalism, or the nonprofit sector.
- Experience advancing virtual collaborations.
- Professional or graduate-level experience in education, learning sciences, informal learning, project-based learning, or related fields preferred but not required.

#### **Compensation**

The individual or organization working with us to create the Civic Science Fellows curriculum will be compensated on a project basis. The timeline and payment schedule will be agreed upon as part of the contract development process, with work completed by November 2023.

## To Respond

Please send the following with the email subject “Civic Science Fellows Curriculum Development” to [civicscience@ritaallen.org](mailto:civicscience@ritaallen.org):

- A letter to describe relevant expertise and experience.
- Proposed detailed timeline and process plan for completing the deliverables described above by November 17, 2023.
- The bios of those who will be working on the project and describe their role in the proposed project plan.
- Proposed budget for the development of the online curriculum including any curriculum materials. Compensation will be agreed upon as part of the contract development process.
- 2–3 work samples (e.g., online curricula, reports, or plans).

**For priority consideration, please provide the above by May 26, 2023.**

Please reach out to Eliza Fisher, Collaboration and Project Management, at [civicscience@ritaallen.org](mailto:civicscience@ritaallen.org) with any questions.