

State Farm Student Achievement Program Overview

State Farm® is proud to team up with YSA (Youth Service America) to offer grants of up to \$4,000 for programs enhancing student achievement through service-learning in K-12 public schools in all fifty US states, the District of Columbia, and in the Canadian provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta. Each grant engages participating teachers and students in a service and learning program that promotes academic achievement, workplace readiness, and stronger communities. Grants of \$1,000 are available for individual teachers, and grants of up to \$4,000 will be awarded to groups of teachers and/or district-wide programs. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply in groups of four or more teachers, building a network within their school/district community of educators working together to incorporate service and learning into their schools' values.

In support of the State Farm *Celebrate My Drive*® initiative, YSA will reserve up to 3 (\$12,000) State Farm Student Achievement Grants for *YOUth in the Driver Seat* teen driver safety projects. This program is a continuation of YSA's association last year with *Celebrate My Drive*, and builds upon YSA's teen driver safety service-learning resource, *YOUth in the Driver Seat*. The module provides the framework to implement a teen driver safety *Semester of Service*: 12 to 14 weeks of student-led, teacher-supported, service and learning activities that are focused on this key State Farm priority.

The State Farm Student Achievement Grant requires a 14+ week *Semester of Service*™ starting in the Fall, 2014 and ending on Global Youth Service Day, April, 2015.

Each State Farm Student Achievement Grant program needs to:

- **Address a Substantive Issue in your Community** – What is the issue in your community that students will address? What factors contribute to the problem?
- **Promote Student Achievement** – What intentional learning goals meeting academic or Common Core standards will be included? Student achievement refers to the knowledge and skills that participating students will learn and the impact the program will have on their academic achievement.
- **Measure the Impact** – The State Farm Student Achievement Grant program impacts students, as well as the community issue they have identified. YSA has arranged for an independent, outside evaluation of this program. Applicants will receive additional information about the evaluation process when the grant is awarded.
- **Reflect Diversity** – YSA and State Farm are each committed to programs that provide opportunities to engage students traditionally not asked to serve, including youth from diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, youth with disabilities, youth in the juvenile justice system, youth in foster care, and youth who are refugees or recent immigrants. At the conclusion of the program, grantees will be asked to report on the diversity of the students engaged, in addition to the number, age, gender and ethnicity of student participants, and the school's free/reduced lunch demographic.

State Farm Student Achievement Program Overview

- **Support Youth Voice** –At all stages of the program, students should have a voice in deciding what happens, and how the program is shaped.
- **Include Publicity** – Engagement of traditional and social media, and elected and other public officials and VIP's can bring added visibility and credibility to your efforts, and highlight student efforts..
- **Develop 21st Century Skills** – By participating in this State Farm Student Achievement Grant program, students can acquire skills and knowledge that will help prepare them for their college, career, and workplace futures. YSA will guide grantee educators in intentionally introducing the “Four C’s” (Critical Thinking/Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication, and Creativity/Innovation) into the program.
- **Provide Service to the Community** – The State Farm Student Achievement Grant program requires that students impact a community issue or problem that they have identified.. This service element must be included.
- **Include Global Youth Service Day** – Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities. It is celebrated in April. Incorporating GYSD into your program shows youth involved that they're a part of an international movement, and are working alongside other youth to change the world.
- **Encourage Continuous Reflection** - Activities that prompt deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one's relationship to society help students to become aware of what they know, and encourage them to think about the impact that the program has on them and their community.
- **Build for Sustainability** - How will the program to be sustained, replicated, and increased in scale?

Regional Trainings - YSA will offer a series of one-day regional trainings in Atlanta, Dallas, Phoenix, Chicago and Washington, DC (locations subject to change), to introduce grantees to the full suite of tools, resources, and support that YSA can provide. Attendance at a regional training is a required element of participation in the State Farm Student Achievement Grant program. YSA will cover travel costs and other arrangements (including one night's lodging, if needed.)

Download the [State Farm Student Achievement Grant Rubric](#) to guide the development of your application.

YSA Project Planning Resources:

[Semester of Service Strategy Guide](#): This high impact, strategic - planning resource is designed to help you launch and culminate an extended and continuous period of service and learning activities framed by significant national "days of service". The State Farm Student Achievement Grant application follows the five “IPARD/C” stages of program

State Farm Student Achievement Program Overview

planning that are outlined in this guide. Available as a printed and downloadable resource.

[YOUth Changing the World: a Service Project Toolkit](#): This interactive student resource was designed as a companion to the *Semester of Service Strategy Guide*, to help youth develop their service projects from creation to completion. Available as a printed and downloadable resource.

[YOUth in the Driver Seat: a Teen Driver Safety Semester of Service™](#): This guide supports high school students as they develop and implement youth-led teen driver safety programs. Up to 12 of the State Farm Student Achievement Grants will be awarded to high school teachers leading students through a teen driver safety Semester of Service. Available as a printed and downloadable resource.

Check out all of YSA's helpful resources at www.ysa.org/resources!

Need Help?

For additional information or questions about this State Farm Student Achievement Grant program, send an email to sganske@ysa.org