



The divide in America runs deep and wide. The crisis of upheaval in Washington and in blue states and red – before the November election and since - present both challenges and opportunities for all our organizations. There's no single magic bullet; no single organization can – or should – wage battle alone.

With that in mind, the Bridge Alliance is awarding up to \$1 million in Collective Impact grants in 2017 to enable its member organizations to better collaborate on ways to fix political processes on the local, state and national levels. The initial round of grants was awarded yesterday, more than \$500k. Bridge Alliance will be initiating a second round of collective impact funding in the fall of 2017.

We are excited for what's to come. Help us turn talk into action by donating or spreading the word of this groundbreaking new development.

Congratulations to the grantees! [National Institute for Civil Discourse](#), [State Legislative Leaders Foundation \(SLLF\)](#), [National Foundation for Women Legislators \(NFWL\)](#), [Public Agenda](#), [Cities of Service](#), [Institute for Local Government](#), [AllSides](#), [Living Room Conversations](#), [Digital Citizen](#), [Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership](#), [Healthy Democracy](#), [Essential Partners: Advancing the work of Public Conversations Project](#), [The Village Square](#), [Bring It to The Table](#), [Join the Coffee Party Movement](#), [Civil Politics.org](#), [92nd Street Y](#), [FairVote](#), [Open](#)

[Primaries](#), [ReConsider](#), [Independentvoting.org](#), [Represent.Us](#), [The Centrist Project](#)

# *THE BRIDGE ALLIANCE*

## *COLLECTIVE IMPACT \$500,000*

### *GRANT FIRST-ROUND*

#### *PROJECTS, MARCH 2017*

#### GOVERNANCE

- Improve the workings of state legislatures nationwide by bringing together legislators from across the country to study how to talk with others with opposing views and how to reach policy decisions without or with minimum acrimony.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: National Institute for Civil Discourse; State Legislative Leaders Foundation; National Foundation of Women Legislators. Grant amount: \$50,000 in two phases.*
- Make local government meetings and decision making more effective by distributing a toolkit to make public meetings more productive and guide how people inside and outside of local government perceive and communicate with each other.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Public Agenda; Cities of Service; Institute of Local Government. Grant amount: \$45,000*

#### CIVIC PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Help people and groups find opposing forces who are willing to talk and stimulate dialogue between those of differing viewpoints by creating an online “matchmaking site” to help divergent Bridge Association members and others find each other for open conversations on difficult issues.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: AllSides, Living Room Conversations, Digital Citizen. Grant amount: \$65,000*
- Find out if voters can make better-informed decisions on initiatives and referenda, by expanding and testing new Citizen Initiative Review Panels’ voter information guides in a California demonstration project.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Public Agenda, Davenport Institute, Healthy Democracy. Grant amount: \$60,000*

- Enable open conversation between leaders and groups with diverging views, with a test project in Utah to train civil discourse facilitators who will lead and teach others how to find common ground for discussion.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Essential Partners, Living Room Conversations, Village Square. Grant amount: \$45,000*
- Improve government decision making and civic participation by better informing people of government procedures, successes and roadblocks, by creating, testing and distributing a new series of radio, TV and webcasts.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: AllSides, Living Room Conversations, Bring it to the Table, Coffee Party. Grant amount: \$38,000*
- Harness the power of social media to showcase positive acts of governing instead of just the negative, through research, tests and the participation of social media experts and companies.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Civil Politics, Living Room Conversations, Village Square. Grant amount: \$25,000*
- Create a new model for Americans of different backgrounds and beliefs to come together in face-to-face conversations, with social media tools and guidelines to allow all Bridge Member groups, other organizations, and individuals to organize powerful “circles” and moderated dinners for cross-party dialogue and civil debate.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: 92Y, Village Square. Grant amount: \$90,000 in two phases*

## CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

- Educate voters where new election processes are in place or under consideration, such as open primaries and ranked choice voting.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Fair Vote, Open Primaries, Reconsider Media, Independent Voting.org. Grant amount: \$35,000*
- Encourage and enable more people to run for public office, with social and other media outreach to potential candidates and the public at large, to foster a more representative, responsive, and functional government.  
*Collaborating Bridge Alliance members: Centrist Project, Independent Voting.org, Represent.Us. Grant amount: \$60,000*