About the Grant

The Nielson Social Change Innovation Grant program is facilitated by the Center for Social Change and Community Involvement. Nielson Social Change Innovation Grants support Lewis & Clark College undergraduate student-initiated projects and are designed to:

Made possible through the generosity of Patrick Nielson ’71 and his wife Dorris Nielson, the Nielson Social Change Innovation Grant provides Lewis & Clark College undergraduate students with funds to cover costs such as equipment or technology, educational resources, travel expenses, or other items used to strengthen grassroots efforts for progressive, systemic social change. This fund prioritizes applications that address community outreach and education, leadership development, root cause and power analysis, and coalition building. Proposals that directly address racial equity and social justice will be prioritized.

Grant recipients may receive an award between the range of $500 - $5,000. Grants will be given annually to the individuals or groups (undergraduates only) who submits a winning proposal.
The Nielson Social Change Innovation Grant supports projects that:

- Fund effective and transformative social change initiatives
- Encourage innovation and creativity to explore what is possible
- Equip communities that our students care about, both locally and globally, with the tools required to positively impact social change
- Develop and test ideas, solve problems, and create opportunities

leadserve@lclark.edu
Project Timeline 2024

FEBRUARY 5
ACCEPTING PROPOSALS
Application is open!

MARCH 4 (TIME AND PLACE TBD)
DRAFT PROPOSALS REVIEW

MARCH 31
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL
Submit proposals via the form on our website

APRIL 10
SELECTION NOTIFICATION
All applicants will be notified that week

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APRIL 15
GRANT AGREEMENT
Selected recipients meet with Center staff. Must sign and return a Grant Agreement before receiving funds

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APRIL 28 - MAY 15
MONEY DISTRIBUTION
Funds may take up to 3 weeks to be distributed

MAY 15
MONEY DISTRIBUTION
Funds may take up to 3 weeks to be distributed

JUNE
GRANT TERM STARTS
Funded projects are to begin in June

AUGUST
GRANT TERM ENDS
Projects may be executed through the end of August

SEPTEMBER 1
GRANT REPORT DUE
Compilation of project achievements, challenges, budget details, and ideas for continued development
Meet 2023 Recipients

Mikayel Kamendatyan '24
Mikayel's project aimed to promote a safe and healthy community in order to prevent youth from low-income districts of the capital city Yerevan from engaging in online gambling, drug abuse, and other destructive activities such as crime, which are currently gaining huge momentum in Yerevan.

Amani Rene Pacifique
Amani’s project titled “Future Leader Program” aimed to provide young people with a platform for developing their leadership and entrepreneurship skills. The Future Leader Program offered a one-week boot camp to boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 20 who are from traumatic backgrounds.

Read Project Reports Here
Contact Info

Center for Social Change and Community Involvement

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https://college.lclark.edu/student_life/social_change/