The 2019 pandemic brought the world to a screeching halt.

We are committed to moving FOURWARD. We wanted to continue to build on the momentum of almost 120 years of positive youth development, and be a resource when kids needed us most. That’s why we created the FOURWARD Fund in March 2020 — so we could support our Cooperative Extension System partners as they met the needs of kids across the country.

The first FOURWARD Fund grants were awarded in July 2020. And since then, 4-H educators and volunteers have been actively engaging young people in creative and giving them continuous access to activities that engage, experiences that inspire, and mentors who empower. We are proud to share these stories with our 4-H family of supporters.

Applications Awarded in 23 States

$299,000 Awarded

Donors

All applications that met National 4-H considered, and the most competitive programs outlined a plan to reach kids from income communities with limited access to broadband.
Youth who took part in Garden Series demonstrated a newfound passion for gardening, including increased knowledge and skills. 144 of 224 participants responded.
We all learned so much and didn't want it to end! I loved the mix of live events, activities at home, and support videos. You guys proved COVID won't ruin camp plans. My daughter is medically fragile... THRILLED to be able to join in on all of the fun [without COVID concerns].
Learned something new
Would like to learn more
Would join another virtual
Feel that 4-H is a place where
you get to do things you enjoy
Felt they belong in 4-H

KANSAS
Communications Skills
for Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement programs empower young people to make a difference in the world—even during a pandemic, and especially in times of widespread division and unrest. At Kansas State University, the FOURWARD Fund supported one such program that helped youth from historically underrepresented communities develop communication skills needed for civic engagement.

The Stories Matter series, adapted for virtual learning, included an exploration of visual thinking strategies as a depth conversation boot camp. For example, a leadership group comprised of underrepresented students was able to reach 250 of their peers after being trained as facilitators for all three components of the series. In total, more than 50 young people were trained as facilitators and hundreds of diverse youth were reached through small virtual wide events, and state 4-H events.

Topics Covered:

- Bullying
- Mental Illness
- Shooting Prevention
- Voting
If you have been honestly been a blessing to receive them,

—Distribution Site Volunteer

Thank you! Being everything it was a good way to get families together doing screen time.

—
I was so excited to see some Indian Pipe pulling Buckthorn and Crown Vetch. It felt like I was making room for something that really should be there. I also found delicious black cap berries. Thanks!