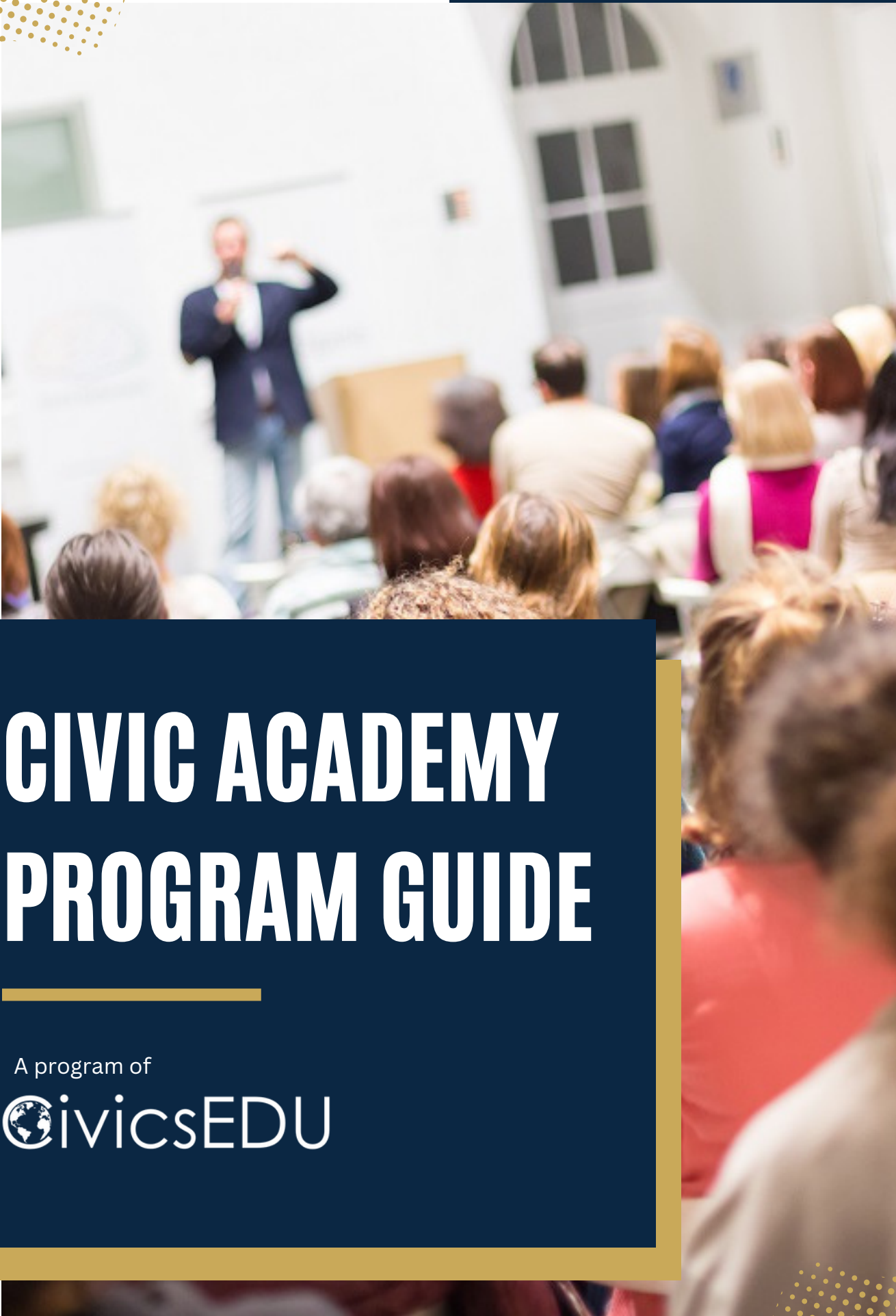




CIVIC ACADEMY PROGRAM GUIDE

A program of

 **civicsEDU**

WHAT IS CIVICSEDU?

CivicsEDU is an emerging Charlotte-area nonprofit with a focus on improving civic literacy in schools and communities. We understand the significance of civic education and strive to reimagine it to be more engaging and captivating for residents. We firmly believe that civics transcends being merely a school subject; it is a fundamental aspect of the citizenship journey. Thus, civics should be viewed as an ongoing process of learning and active participation throughout one's life.

We recognize that the strength of a democracy lies in the active involvement of its citizens. Hence, our organization endeavors to catalyze a robust democracy, particularly at the grassroots level of government. We have many programs and services in the works! So keep up with us!

For more information, visit us online at:
www.civicsedu.org

Top Row (l to r)

Adrian Paila, Chief of Staff

Kaelan Boyd, Co-Founder & Executive Director

Emily Conway, Director of Civic Education and Outreach

Bottom Row (l to r)

Ashley Qualls, Director of Finance and Development

Nina Cooper, Co-Founder & Director of Policy and Research



WHAT IS A CIVIC ACADEMY PROGRAM?



A Civic Academy Program (CAP) is a dynamic and interactive initiative, designed to engage participants in a comprehensive exploration of civic responsibilities, community engagement, and effective governance practices. Developed collaboratively between CivicsEDU staff and local government (LG) partners, CAPs offer a structured and immersive cohort-based learning journey. Through a blend of workshops, tours, and hands-on activities, participants delve into various aspects of civic life, including but not limited to civic leadership, public policy, grassroots advocacy, and community development.

The aim of a CAP is to furnish local governments with a tailored approach to enlightening residents about the significance of local government and the array of services it offers. Additionally, CAPs offer local government leadership valuable data to support informed decision-making processes.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Increased Understanding of Local Government Structures and Functions

Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and structures of local government, including the functions of various departments, elected officials, and administrative processes.

Enhanced Civic Engagement Skills

Through interactive workshops and practical exercises, participants will develop skills in civic engagement, such as effective communication with government officials, community organizing, advocacy strategies, and techniques for participating in local decision-making processes.

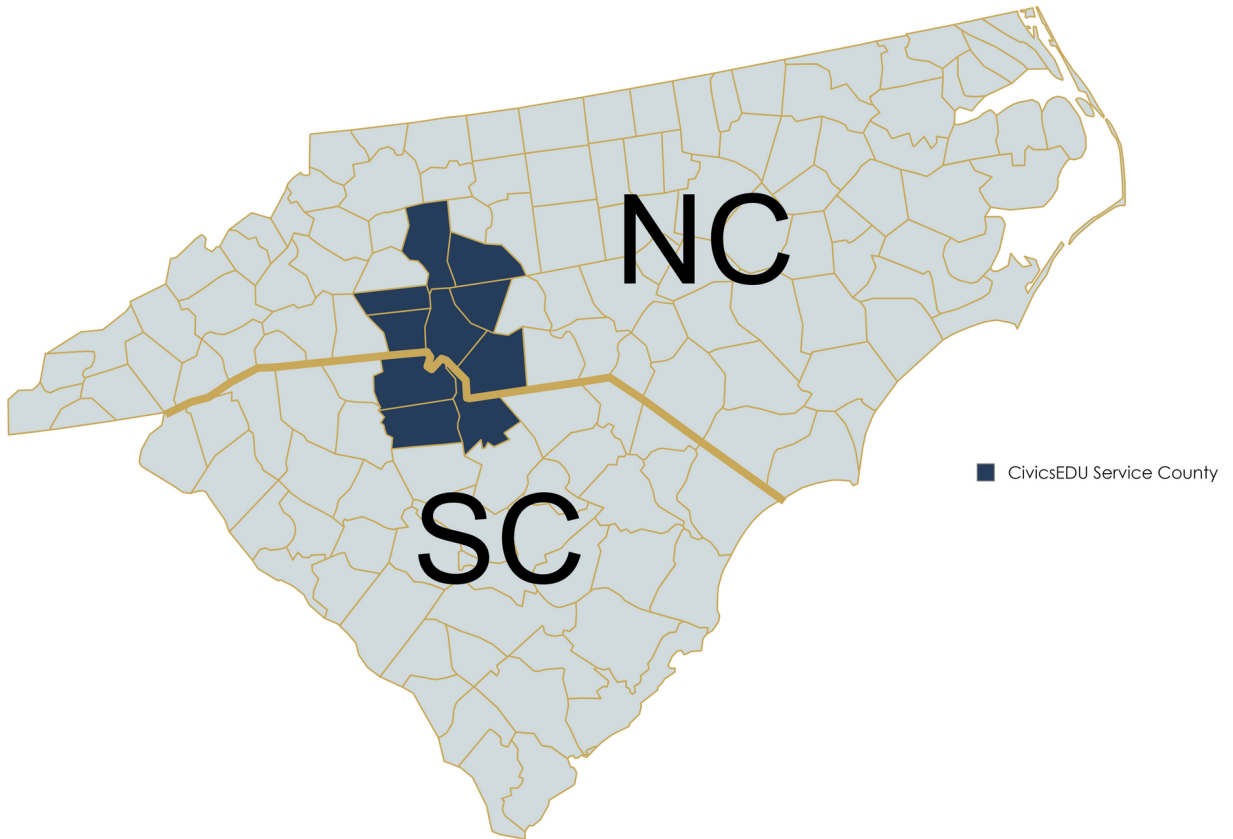
Empowered Community Leadership

Program graduates will become empowered community leaders, ready to drive positive change in their neighborhoods. Equipped with essential knowledge and skills, they'll mobilize residents, tackle local issues, and collaborate with local government partners to enhance their communities.

Increased Awareness of Local Policy Issues

Participants will explore key local policy issues like urban planning, elections, transportation, sustainability, social services, and economic development. They'll learn to analyze proposals, identify community needs, and advocate for resident-focused policies.

SERVICE AREA



We are currently offering this service to local governments in the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia metropolitan area, which includes municipalities within and the counties of:

- Cabarrus
- Chester
- Gaston
- Iredell
- Lancaster
- Lincoln
- Mecklenburg
- Rowan
- Union
- York

Depending on program demand, more counties and cities in the region will be added soon.



PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Sessions

CAPs are powered by structured sessions that empower cohort participants to actively engage in the learning process and equip themselves for future involvement. Session content may encompass presentations, guest speakers, and various other program components.

Policy Recommendation Workshops

During a dedicated session, cohort participants will have an opportunity to choose a local government service and collaborate on crafting policy recommendations for consideration by local government leaders. These recommendations will serve as concrete feedback that cohort members can actively pursue as part of their immersion process.

Guided Tours

CivicsEDU will organize guided tours for cohort members at chosen local government facilities. This initiative offers participants a hands-on experience with local government operations and an exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse into the essential services that sustain their communities daily.

Evaluations

The CivicsEDU Policy and Research Team will conduct an evaluation throughout the CAP to measure the program's effectiveness and report those findings to the local government partner.



PROGRAM OPTIONS

DID YOU KNOW? CAPs are designed to be customized based on the strategic needs of our local government partners. LG partners can select up to 5 critical services as the focus of their program. LG partners can also determine the length of their program by selecting one of the options below.

2 Week Express Program

- 4 sessions (1.5 hrs each)
 - Introductory (1 session) + up to 1 LG service focus (2 sessions)
 - Policy recommendation workshop (1 session)
 - Pre-evaluation & post-evaluation
-

4 Week Standard Program

- Up to 8 sessions (1.5 hrs each)
 - Introductory (1 session) + up to 3 LG service focuses (6 sessions)
 - Policy recommendation workshop (1 session)
 - Guided tours of LG facilities
 - Pre-evaluation & post-evaluation
-

6 Week Extended Program

- Up to 12 sessions (1.5 hrs each)
- Introductory (1 session) + up to 5 LG service focuses (10 sessions)
- Policy recommendation workshop (1 session)
- Guided tours of LG facilities
- Pre-evaluation & post-evaluation

WHAT'S THE PROCESS?



- The local government or CivicsEDU initiates a formal request to explore the feasibility of establishing a CAP.
- Following an initial discussion and preliminary agreement, CivicsEDU will commence crafting a customizable CAP plan tailored to the preferences of the local government partner.
- The local government partner will evaluate and approve the CAP plan via a formal agreement and offer any necessary resources for CivicsEDU to effectively implement the program.
- CivicsEDU will consistently update the local government partner on the progress of the program throughout its duration.
- Upon completion of the CAP, participants will receive recognition during a session of the local government legislative body. Additionally, local government leadership will receive a formal presentation of evaluation data collected from cohort participants and recommendations for future engagement.

TEAM CONTACTS

Our team is always here to help! We specialize in providing local governments with solutions to educate their residents on critical services. We believe that civic education is the intellectual fuel of every community, and we strive to do our part in ensuring that it works for everyone!



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