

Evaluation of National Citizen Service: 2011 and 2012 pilots

National Citizen Service (NCS) is the flagship programme for young people within the Government's vision for building the Big Society. Aimed at 16 year olds, the scheme involves a programme of activity designed to bring young people from different backgrounds together and support them to develop the skills and attitudes they need to engage positively with their communities and become active and responsible citizens.

The aims of NCS are to promote:

- A more cohesive society by mixing people from different backgrounds
- A more responsible society by supporting the transition to adulthood
- A more engaged society by enabling young people to work together to create social action projects in their local community.

NCS will be piloted for two years in summer 2011 and summer 2012 to inform decisions about a potential national roll out from 2013-14 onwards. The current proposal is for around 11,000 young people to participate in summer 2011, increasing to 30,000 young people in summer 2012.

Evaluation of NCS

The Office for Civil Society (OCS) and Department for Education (DfE) wish to commission an evaluation of the 2011 and 2012 NCS pilots to assess the success of the pilots in meeting the programme aims and to provide robust data to inform future decisions on NCS. It is expected that this evaluation will include the following:

- A **process evaluation**, including assessment of recruitment, design, delivery, quality and monitoring systems, in order to inform the future development of the NCS programme;
- A robust **assessment of the immediate and longer-term impact** of NCS on young people's attitudes and behaviours with regard to: social mixing; leadership; communication; community involvement and trust; confidence; and transition to adulthood; and
- A **value for money analysis** of NCS, including identification of lessons for improving future cost effectiveness.

We are looking for an organisation or consortium with extensive knowledge of and experience in conducting large scale, multi-method policy evaluation work, with a particular focus on programme effectiveness, and welcome innovative approaches to achieving the evaluation aims. In addition we require a team with the capacity and infrastructure to set up such an evaluation project within a short timescale.

We are particularly interested in organisations with the following:

- expertise in the field of youth development, including outcome measurement
- experience of conducting research with young people, including recruiting control groups within this age group
- capacity to collect and analyse extensive quantitative data
- methodological expertise in complex survey sampling
- economic analysis skills
- experience of working with the range of organisations involved in NCS (particularly schools and voluntary organisations)

To apply

Interested organisations should complete and submit the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) to: mailbox.nationalcitizenservice@education.gsi.gov.uk. The deadline for completed PQQs is 12 noon on Monday 13th December 2010.

Submissions will be acknowledged via email within 48 hours of receipt – if you do not receive confirmation within this time please contact us directly (details below).

PQQ responses should clearly demonstrate the organisation's or consortium's experience in the areas covered in Section 3: Business Activities of the PQQ. Where organisations are working in partnership, or in a consortium, please reflect the experience of all partners in your response.

Organisations successful at this stage will be notified by 20th December and invited to submit a full tender in January 2010. It is anticipated the successful candidate will be appointed by February 2011.

Further information

For further details please contact Rebecca Wyton (rebecca.wyton@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk) or Sarah Butt (sarah.butt@education.gsi.gov.uk).

Further background on the NCS pilots can be found through the following links:

- [Launch of NCS](#)
- [Overview](#)
- [Commissioning process for NCS pilot providers](#)
- [NCS pilot providers announced](#)