

Wyoming County Civic Action Fellowship

Building the Next Generation of Local Leaders

The Wyoming County Civic Action Fellowship connects students directly with county and municipal government, public agencies, and community organizations to address real local challenges.

This is not a simulation—students engage in authentic civic work that strengthens both their learning and our communities.

Why This Matters for Local Government

This fellowship creates a **direct pipeline between youth and local leadership**, helping to:

- Build future public servants and community leaders
- Increase youth engagement in local government
- Bring fresh ideas and research to real community issues
- Strengthen connections between schools and municipalities
- Highlight local career pathways in public service

For rural communities, this is especially powerful—students begin to see opportunity, leadership, and impact right here at home.

What Students Actually Do

Students work alongside local partners to:

- Investigate real issues (housing, mental health, workforce, agriculture, etc.)
- Interview and collaborate with county and municipal leaders
- Attend meetings, analyze policy, and gather data
- Design and implement civic action projects
- Present recommendations and solutions to stakeholders

Engagement is flexible:

- In-person internships
- Virtual collaboration
- “Government in the Classroom” partnerships

Aligned to the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness

This program directly supports:

- Service Learning (25 hours + civic action)
- Capstone “Taking Informed Action” requirements

It provides the real-world application piece schools often struggle to create. All districts within Wyoming County are approved for the Seal of Civic Readiness, but have a difficult time finding placements for students to take action in their capstone projects, or earn service learning credits.



WYOMING COUNTY

BUSINESS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Connecting Schools • Employers • and Community



What We Ask from Partners

County departments, towns, villages, and organizations can participate by:

- Serving as mentors or interview partners
 - Hosting student visits or virtual sessions
 - Providing insight on real community challenges
 - Attending or supporting student presentations
 - Offering 25 hour (or more) problem based internships for students to explore the impact of local government work
-

Culminating Event & Regional Vision: GLOW Serve & Lead

The fellowship culminates in a ****regional event—GLOW Serve & Lead—****which serves as both the Civic Impact Showcase and a large-scale civic engagement experience. This creates a visible celebration of youth civic leadership and community collaboration.

At this event, students present their projects to:

- County and municipal leaders
 - Community and service-based organizations
 - School and regional leadership
-

What is GLOW Serve & Lead?

Modeled after the success of **GLOW With Your Hands**, this event brings together:

- County and municipal governments
- Public agencies
- Nonprofits and service organizations

All in one place to engage students in hands-on civic learning and real-world problem solving. At the event, students will:

- Present civic action projects and policy ideas
 - Interact directly with government and community leaders
 - Participate in live problem-solving sessions and workshops
 - Explore how local systems work and how they can contribute
 - Discover pathways to serve and lead in their communities
-

Regional Leadership & Scalable Vision

Wyoming County is uniquely positioned to lead this work across the GLOW region by launching and hosting a scalable model that begins locally and expands outward. Through GLOW Serve & Lead, the county can bring neighboring counties into the effort and establish itself as a regional hub for civic leadership, workforce development, and community engagement.

Why It Matters

GLOW Serve & Lead transforms a student showcase into a regional civic experience where students don't just present—they engage, collaborate, and lead, and organizations don't just observe—they connect, mentor, and recruit. This positions the initiative as a high-impact regional model that builds civic leadership, public service workforce pathways, and stronger, more connected communities.