



**Young people don't have to leave their hometowns to build their dreams.**

My Community, My Vision (MCMV) is a youth community planning program sponsored by IHEDA that engages high school youth and college students in Indiana. The program was developed with the belief that young people in Indiana should not have to leave their hometowns in order to make a positive impact. Previous participating groups have implemented public art projects, canoe and kayak launches, community gardens, public movie nights, small business partnerships, community crime prevention initiatives, and tactical urbanism projects for community engagement.

My Community, My Vision has the following goals:

- Empower Indiana youth to discover and develop a vision for their communities.
- Connect youth and community leaders.
- Inspire Indiana's youth to become Indiana's leaders.
- Encourage youth to return to or stay in their hometowns.
- Educate youth about civic involvement.
- Promote youth-driven comprehensive community development with a focus on aspects of quality places including affordable housing, leadership, transportation, community health, entrepreneurship, placemaking, and art.
- Teach youth about the public project and implementation process.

## Program Requirements.

Local units of government (LUGs) and high school student groups will work in partnership with a college student mentor to create a youth-driven community vision plan and a community project. With input from the high school students and support from the LUG, the college student mentor will create the vision plan based on the students' ideas for their communities. Student teams will be required to devote time each week (an average of 1 to 2 hours, with occasional travel) toward the creation of the plan, as well as attend several all-group meetings throughout the course of the program year. The MCMV program year will be from September 2019 to April 2020.

The college student mentor will be responsible for leading and attending regular meetings with the high school groups and the creation of the plan. The college student mentor, the high school students, and a representative from the LUG will be expected to attend, and occasionally travel to, at least two Saturday meetings, 2-4 evening meetings and at least one school day meeting. Groups selected to participate will receive \$5,000 to implement a community supported, youth-driven project.

## Outcomes.

- Meaningful youth involvement in the community planning and local government processes.
- An increased likelihood that students will return to their hometowns.
- Adoption of plans by local government.
- Implementation of a community project developed by the MCMV students.

# Program Timeline.

- *March 20, 2019 10 a.m. EST* – Program webinar and application opens
- *September 9, 2019 by 5 p.m. Eastern Time* – Applications due
- *September 13, 2019* – Program participants announced
- *September 28, 2019* – First state-wide group meeting (Program kick-off meeting held in Indianapolis.)
- *October 2019 - March 2020* – Plan development (Regular mentor meetings with groups; At least one community input meeting.)
- *February or March 2020* – Second state-wide group meeting
- *April 2020* – Third state-wide group meeting (Final presentation of plans and projects in Indianapolis.)

## Application Process.

LUGs interested in having their community's youth play a key role in community planning efforts should apply to the 2019-2020 MCMV program. The LUG will recruit a group of high school students, work with them to write the essay, submit the essay application to IHCD, maintain the group's involvement during the MCMV program year, and provide support to the college student mentor throughout the process. The brief essay application must include the following information:

- Community description including demographic info, community strengths, and the community's areas of improvement or aspiration;
- Why the community will benefit from a youth led plan and project;
- Identify the student group. This includes: group affiliation (ex: FFA, Mayor's Youth Council, after-school group, etc.), number of students, and names of students. The recommended group size is between 5 and 10 students.;
- Description of the student participation plan (LUG contact person for the program, when, where and how often students will meet, etc.);
- How the LUG will support the process, from brainstorming to implementation;
- Preliminary ideas of how the \$5,000 project funding might be used (note: applicants will not be held the ideas presented in the application as plans and ideas may change over the course of the year);

The following **MUST** be included in your submission but do not count toward the five page essay limit:

- Include signed commitment pledges from: (1) The LUG contact person, (2) the supervising teacher/adult of the high school group that will be participating in MCMV, and (3) each participating student.
- Include Photographic Consent and Release Form for each participant.
- Participant Spreadsheet. All forms can be found here: <https://www.in.gov/myihcda/mcmv.htm>

Up to five communities will be chosen to participate in the program. At the end of the 2019-2020 school year, LUGs will receive a community vision plan to guide future development and participating groups will each receive \$5,000 to implement a youth-driven project that is identified in the MCMV planning process.

Submit the application in essay form. The essay must address the above questions and can be no more than five pages in length. To be considered for participation in the program, all essays must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2019 to the following email address: [clethig@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:clethig@ihcda.in.gov).

## **Submission deadline: Monday, September 9, 2019 by 5 p.m. Eastern Time**

Selected participants will be contacted the following week and should plan on attending a kick-off event in the Indianapolis area on September 28, 2019.

Questions and applications can be submitted to [clethig@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:clethig@ihcda.in.gov)



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**ihcda** The IHCD logo features the letters "ihcda" in a bold, lowercase font, followed by three circular icons: a house, a person, and a gear.  
Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority