



## **2023-2024 Program Year**

### **Overview and Application Requirements**

My Community, My Vision is a program from Indiana Housing and Community Development (IHCD) designed to connect high school students across Indiana to each other and their neighborhoods, towns, and cities. Up to five selected cohorts of students across the state will participate in four months of workshops, planning, and fundraising for a place-based community project they would like to see come to life in their town or city.

Using placemaking as both a strategy for community revitalization and a tool for building quality of life, student projects will take underutilized or vacant space and turn it into publicly-accessible hubs for connection, interaction, and community pride.

IHCD has seen great success using the CreatINg Places crowd-granting program statewide to incentivize community-led placemaking efforts. Building upon this model, students in the MCMV program who successfully strategize, plan, and raise a fundraising goal of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 towards their community project will receive a matched grant from IHCD.

## Program Requirements

Eligible applicants for the My Community, My Vision Program include Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) Mayor's Youth Councils, Indiana Philanthropy Alliance (IPA) Foundation Youth Councils, and other established extracurricular high school groups. Applicants are not required to be an AIM or IPA designated youth council, but preference will be given to applicants applying as youth councils. Extracurricular high school groups must be established for at least two years and demonstrate both experience in fundraising and community engagement. All youth councils and student groups must have a designated fiscal sponsor (a local unit of government or 501(c)3 or (c)4 organization) to oversee project funds and a dedicated supervisor to oversee student progress and link students to MCMV staff.

High school students, alongside their group sponsor and supervisor, will work throughout the course of a semester to determine a project, craft a budget, develop a fundraising goal and strategy, and raise the needed funds for all materials during a forty five-day fundraising campaign. Throughout the semester, students will be required to participate in three in-person workshops hosted by IHCD, where they will learn about place-based community development, project planning, fundraising strategies, and stakeholder engagement. Each workshop will prepare students to brainstorm and reach their project goal, as well as providing networking and leadership opportunities. In the final workshop, students will present their work and success to their peers and Indiana's community development leaders.

Students will be responsible for committing weekly time towards planning their community project and fundraising campaign, as well as travel to in-person workshops and any fundraising events. Selected youth council student leaders and their supervisors will be required to communicate progress bi-weekly and groups will be tasked with building and managing a crowd-funding page with IHCD's partner, Patronicity. Both IHCD and Patronicity will provide guidance, technical support, troubleshooting, and other assistance throughout the course of the program. The MCMV Program will take place from January through April 2024. Supervisors and student leaders will be required to participate in a brief virtual orientation to the program in early December 2023.

The designated fiscal sponsor—a local unit of government, community foundation, or other 501(c)3 or (c)4 organization as explained above—will receive all fundraised dollars and the IHCD grant via a Patronicity funds transfer following the conclusion of the program. Sponsors will have one year to utilize the funds to complete the project and provide Patronicity reporting documentation. IHCD will consider extensions to this one-year deadline on a case-by-case basis.

## The Commitment

- Three state-wide meetings, including a kick-off, a mid-semester meet up to launch fundraising campaigns, and an end of year celebration
- Group student leader check in with MCMV staff bi-weekly; students work with supervisor on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to complete tasks
- Completion of Patronicity crowdfunding page, including project name, location, description, budget, and elements
- Fundraise a goal of between \$5,000 and \$25,000 during the 45-day campaign challenge
- Supervisors/Sponsor entities will be responsible to complete the project in one year after grant funds are received

## Application Timeline

- **August 31st, 2023** Program Application Released
- **October 4, 2023** Program Webinar and Q&A 10-11 am EST

- **November 3rd, 2023** Application Deadline by 5 pm EST
- **November 17th, 2023** Selected Teams Announced (Tentative)

### **Tentative Program Timeline**

- **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023** Virtual Student Leader and Supervisor Orientation
- **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024** Kick Off Workshop Event (Location TBD)
- **Week of February 5<sup>th</sup>** Campaign Page Webinar
- **March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024** Fundraising Campaign Launch and Workshop (Location TBD)
- **April 2024** Fundraising Campaigns Close
- **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024** Final Presentation Event in Indianapolis

### **Application Documents and Requirements**

Each group applying to the MCMV Program for the 2023-2024 Program Year is required to fill out the online MCMV Application. This includes a student essay, which can be filled out via the online form or emailed to Meagan Heber at [mheber@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:mheber@ihcda.in.gov).

### **Application Scoring Rubric and Completion Requirements**

Completion Requirements – All application materials are filled out and submitted on time. Missing or incomplete materials may disqualify your application from being considered for participation in the MCMV Program.

Application Scoring and Selection – Up to five applications will be chosen to participate in the program and will be scored based on the application’s answers in the following categories:

- Community Description, including Strengths and Needs (Up to 2 points)
- Possible Community Projects and Locations (Up to 5 points)
- Youth Council Description (Up to 5 points)
- Past Youth Council Experience (Up to 5 points)
- Student Participation Plan (Up to 5 points)
- Implementation Plan (Up to 5 points)
- Student Essay (Up to 8 points)

**Total of 35 Points – Score is based on the detail, insight, and completeness of each answer.\***

\*Further descriptions of these categories—with corresponding questions—are provided in the application.

Up to five youth council groups will be chosen to participate in the program. Participating groups who are successful in their crowd-funding campaign at the end of the program will receive a matching grant from IHEDA to be used towards their community project. To be considered for the program, application materials and essay must be submitted via IHEDA’s online application form no later than 5 pm Eastern Time on November 3, 2023. Please email IHEDA Placemaking and ERR Manager, Meagan Heber, at [mheber@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:mheber@ihcda.in.gov) with any questions about the application submission.

Student groups accepted into the program will be required to submit additional documentation via IHEDA OneDrive, including:

- Supervisor/s Commitment Pledge
- Sponsor Entity Expectation Form
- Student Leader/s Commitment Pledge
- Student Commitment Pledge for Each Student Participant (Student Leaders do not need to fill out two forms)
- Photographic Release Form for Each Student Participant

IHEDA will hold an informational webinar/question and answer session virtually on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11 am Eastern Time. To receive an invite for the webinar or for any questions, please reach out to Meagan Heber by email or by phone.

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