



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

My Community, My Vision (MCMV) is a youth planning partnership between the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) and Ball State University (BSU). The program is in its third year and was developed with the belief that young people in Indiana should not have to leave their hometowns in order to achieve their dreams. Previous participating groups have developed community vision plans that lay the groundwork for student entrepreneurship opportunities, community gardens, bike-share programs, farmer's markets, and other programs students wanted to see brought to their hometown. Past youth-driven plans have been adopted by local units of government and one group even raised about \$4,000 in grant funding and in-kind donations to implement projects developed in the MCMV planning process!

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 affordable housing, agriculture, leadership, transportation, community health, entrepreneurship, and art.

Program Requirements.

Local units of government (LUGs) and high school student groups will work in partnership with a BSU urban planning student mentor to create a youth-driven community vision plan. With input from the high school students and support from the LUG, the BSU 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 2016 to April 2017.

The BSU mentor will be responsible for leading and attending regular meetings with the high school groups and the creation of the plan. The BSU mentor, the high school students, and a representative from the LUG will be expected to attend, and occasionally travel to, one Saturday meeting, three meetings during the school day, and one evening meeting. Groups selected to participate will receive \$500 as seed money to implement a community supported, youth-driven project.

Outcomes.

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

Program Timeline.

- *May 6, 2016* – Application opens
- *September 9, 2016* – Application closes
- *September 16, 2016*– Program participants announced
- *September 24, 2016* – Kick-off event in Indianapolis
- *October 2016- March 2017* – Plan development including regular mentor meetings with groups, at least one stakeholder meeting, and three additional state-wide meetings.
- *November 2016* – Second state-wide meeting
- *March 2017* – Third state-wide meeting
- *April 2017* – Final event in Indianapolis

Application Process.

LUGs interested in having their community's young adults play a key role in community planning efforts should apply to the 2016-2017 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 BSU mentor throughout the process. The brief essay application must include the following information:

- Community description including demographic info, community strengths, and community weaknesses;
- Why the community will benefit from a youth led plan;
- Description of the student recruitment strategy;
- 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 seed money might be used (note: applicants will not be held to only the ideas presented in the application as plans and ideas may change over the course of the year); and
- Include a letter of support from the supervising teacher of the high school group that will be participating in MCMV.

Up to five communities will be chosen to participate in the program. Participating groups will receive \$500 as seed money to implement a youth-driven project. Applicants are encouraged to think about how the award could be used to help students create tangible results of their year-long planning efforts.

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, 2016 to the following email address: mcmv@ihcda.in.gov

Submission deadline: September 9, 2016

Selected participants will be contacted the following week and should plan on attending a kick-off event in Indianapolis on September 24.

Questions and applications can be submitted to mcmv@ihcda.in.gov

