



## **2024-2025 Program Year**

### **Overview and Application Requirements**

My Community, My Vision is a program from the 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 five 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, Junior Main Street Organizations, 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 from November through April to determine a project, craft a budget, develop a fundraising goal and strategy, and raise the needed funds for all materials during a thirty to forty five-day fundraising campaign. Throughout the program, students will be required to participate in a virtual kick-off event, virtual coaching sessions, site visit meeting(s), and a final presentation, where they will learn about place-based community development, project planning, fundraising strategies, and stakeholder engagement. Each meeting or workshop will prepare students to brainstorm and reach their project goal, as well as providing networking and leadership opportunities. At the final event, 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 any 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 November 2024 through April 2025. Supervisors and student representatives from the group will be required to participate in the virtual kick off to launch the program the week of November 11-16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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**

- Virtual and in-person meetings, including a virtual kick-off, page-build coaching session (virtual), site visit, and 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 30 to 45-day campaign challenge
- Supervisors/Sponsor entities will be responsible to complete the project in one year after grant funds are received

## Application Timeline

- **June 2024** Program Application Released
- **September 3, 2024** Application Deadline by 5 pm EST
- **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024** Selected Teams Announced (Tentative)

## Tentative Program Timeline

- **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Virtual Kickoff with Students and Supervisors** (Tentative—will consider student schedules)
- **December 2024** Virtual Page Build Coaching Session Scheduled with Bridget Anderson (Patronicity)
- **January 2024** Schedule Site Visits/Group Meet Ups
- **February 2024** Deadlines early February set for page completion, budget, and press release; Fundraising pages launch end of February
- **March 2024** Fundraising Check Ins
- **Early to Mid-April** Final Presentation Event in Indianapolis

## Application Documents and Requirements

Each group applying to the MCMV Program for the 2024-2025 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 IHCD to be used towards their community project. To be considered for the program, application materials and essay must be submitted via IHCD’s online application form no later than 5 pm Eastern

Time on September 3, 2024. Please email IHCD A 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 IHCD A 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

For any questions, please reach out to Meagan Heber by email or by phone.

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[mheber@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:mheber@ihcda.in.gov)