My Community, My Vision (MCMV) is a youth planning program sponsored by IHCDA that engages high school youth and college students in Indiana. The program is in its fifth 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, and other initiatives 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 aspects of quality places including affordable housing, leadership, transportation, community health, entrepreneurship, placemaking, and art.

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 to begin planning for 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 2018 to April 2019.

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, 1-2 evening meetings and a 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 planning process.
- An increased likelihood that students will return to their hometowns.
- Adoption of plans by local government.
- Implementation of a project.
Program Timeline.

- **June 1, 2018** – Application opens
- **September 10, 2018 by 5 p.m. Eastern Time** – Applications due
- **September 14, 2018** – Program participants announced
- **September 29, 2018** – Kick-off event (first state-wide group meeting in Indianapolis)
- **October 2018 - March 2019** – Plan development (regular mentor meetings with groups, at least one stakeholder meeting, second state-wide group meeting)
- **February or March 2019** – Third state-wide group meeting
- **Mid-April 2019** – Final event (presentation of plans in Indianapolis)

Application Process.

LUGs interested in having their community’s youth play a key role in community planning efforts should apply to the 2018-2019 MCMV program. The LUG will recruit a group of high school students, work with them to write the essay, submit the essay application to IHCDA, 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 art 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. Pledges and forms can be found here: [http://in.gov/myihcda/mcmv.htm](http://in.gov/myihcda/mcmv.htm)

Up to five communities will be chosen to participate in the program. At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, LUGs will receive a community vision plan to guide future development and participating groups will 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. 10, 2018 to the following email address: clethig@ihcda.in.gov

**Submission deadline: Monday, September 10, 2018 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 29, 2018.

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