

EMPOWER

My Community, My Vision gives students an opportunity to shape the future of their hometown. The community vision plan created in this program may help guide the development of:

- Job and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Affordable housing
- Agriculture community gardens, parks and trails
- Community health
- Food security
- Youth investment in community development
- Tourism

ENCOURAGE

The program will provide students the freedom to:

- Voice their opinions and ideas on what their town needs to make it an even better place to live
- Take an active role in community development
- Enhance their leadership abilities
- Discover the process behind making and implementing community decisions
- Develop a long-term vision and plan for the improvement of the community
- Collaborate with officials and decision-makers
- Explore new programs and career options
- Return to their hometown after completing their education, with the promise of good job opportunities and enriched communities

ENGAGE

Student teams will have the opportunity to win \$500 for their chapters and engage in the creation of a vision plan for their community to grow and prosper. Winning teams will be assigned a Ball State University student mentor who will help them refine their ideas and engage with community leaders to discuss how those plans could become a reality. 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.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

High school student groups in communities throughout the State of Indiana.

APPLICATION TIMELINE*

Info Posted On-line:.....March
Applications Due:.....August - September
Award Announcements:.....September

Note: 2015 timeline. Timeline may change in 2016.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Essays must be submitted for application. They should include the following:

- Describe how your organization is active in your community
- Describe the strengths and challenges of your community
- Describe your vision for your community and how this vision impacts your decision on returning to your hometown
- Provide your community's population
- Include a letter of support from the highest local elected official
- Include a description of a plan for participation on when meetings may be held with a mentor



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MCMV PROGRAM VISIT: www.in.gov/myihcda/mcmv.htm