



*Closing the Gap*

# Innovation Grants

CREATE SOMETHING NEW

An initiative of MCCOY



## Introduction & Overview

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

# Agenda

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Closing the Gap Overview

Purpose of Innovation Grants

Important Dates

Request for Proposals

Online Application Process

Grant Reviews

Additional Resources

Q&A

# Closing the Gap

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OVERVIEW

# Closing the Gap Vision

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**Closing the Gap works to build better partnerships so every student in Marion County has equitable access to:**

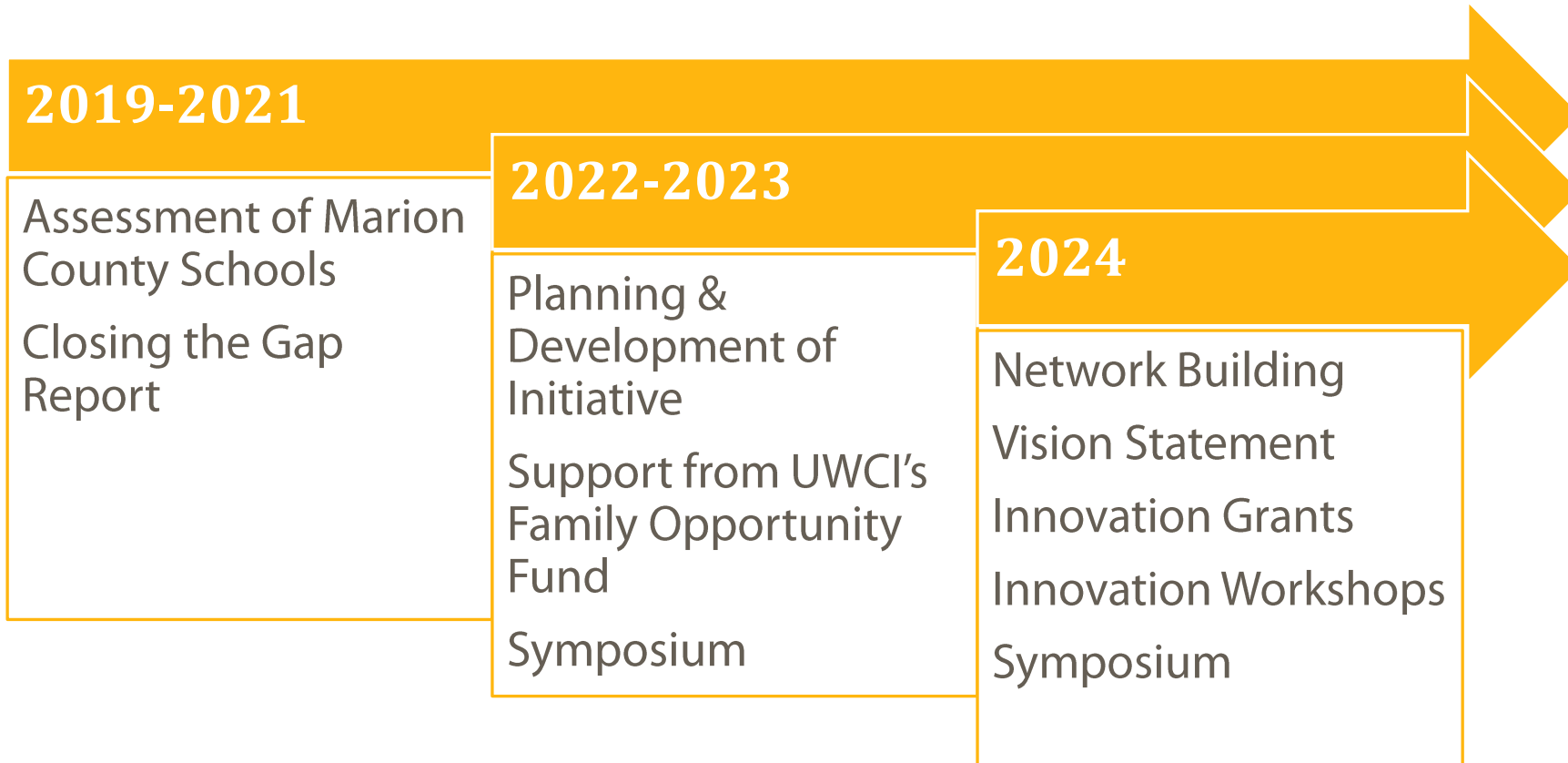
Resources and services needed to thrive

Educational opportunities for an enriched future

Community and a sense of belonging

# History of Closing the Gap

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**Five  
Challenges  
Impact  
Student and  
Family  
Success:**

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Mental Health

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Trauma/Violence

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Social Emotional Health/Development

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Chronic Absenteeism

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Social Media/Internet Use

# Innovation Grants

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OVERVIEW



# Purpose of Innovation Grants

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MCCOY will award Innovation Grants up to \$20,000 to support development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative pilot projects and programs developed by school-community partnerships to address the five key challenge areas of Closing the Gap.

Closing the Gap prioritizes equity, working towards a future where all students and families have equitable access to what they need, when they need it.



# Innovation Grants

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## **PLANNING GRANTS**

These proposals are submitted by applicants who are still in the planning and development stage of their project/program. They may still need to develop the necessary partnerships or think through components of their project/program. Planning grants may transition to the implementation stage before the grant period ends. Planning Grants must result in a fully developed action plan prior to implementation.

## **IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS**

These proposals are submitted by applicants who have established a school-community partnership and have provided sufficient details of their action plan to ensure that implementation will be successful. Implementation Grants must submit a signed partnership agreement with their application. These grants must show measurable results and outcomes and share results in an Evaluation Report submitted after the grant period ends.

# Innovation Grants

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## PLANNING GRANTS

- ✓ Aligned with Closing the Gap goals and five challenges
- ✓ Start of an idea, but need time and support to really figure it out
- ✓ May or may not have some partnerships established
- ✓ Deliverable: Fully developed action plan
- ✓ May begin implementation during grant period.

## IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

- ✓ Established partnerships formalized in a partnership agreement.
- ✓ Well-developed action plan for implementing the project/program.
- ✓ Must show measurable outcomes by end of grant period, but project/program does not need to be finished at that time.

# Innovation Grants: Eligibility

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- Local Education Institution (K-12 School) **OR** Nonprofit Community-Based Organization (501c3 Status)
- Must participate in at least **three (3) check-in** Zoom calls
- Implementation Grants – must submit a signed partnership agreement.
- Meaningfully address one or two of the 5 challenge areas
- Nonprofit applicants must have an annual operating budget of at least \$75,000 and have been in operation for at least 12 months.

# Innovation Grants: Expanded Impact

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## REQUIRED

- All-grantee meeting on August 15, 2024
- Three (3) check-in calls throughout grant period
- End-of-Grant deliverables (action plan or evaluation report)

## OPTIONAL

- Innovation Workshop for grantees (August 15, 2024)
- Additional technical assistance and consultation
- Closing the Gap Symposium opportunities (Sept. 12, 2024)
- Ongoing opportunities to connect with Closing the Gap Network

# Important Dates

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**May 21** – Introduction & Overview Webinar

**June 6** – Overview & Office Hours Webinar

**July 1** – Proposals Due

**July 31** – Award Notifications

**August 1** – Grant Period Begins

**August 15** – Required Grantee Meeting/ Optional Workshop

**September 12** – Closing the Gap Symposium (optional)

**December 31** – Grant Period Ends

**January 30** – Grant Deliverables Due

# Request for Proposals

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PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

# Important Information

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Proposals are due 5:00 PM ET on July 1, 2024.

Proposals are submitted through an Online Form.

Informational Webinars are the best opportunity to ask questions about the application process and expectations.

## **Questions about submission process:**

Kate Roelecke

Director of Strategy and Operations

[Kate.Roelecke@mccoyouth.org](mailto:Kate.Roelecke@mccoyouth.org)

# Application Components

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- Applicant Information
- Project Narrative Overview
- Planning or Implementation Grant Narrative
- Budget
- Budget Narrative
- Optional Supporting Information



# Application Information

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## **Primary Applicant (School or Nonprofit)**

- Name, Title, Phone, Email

## **Project/Program Team**

- Names, Titles, Phones, Emails

## **Nonprofit Documents**

- Form 990
- IRS determination letter

# Project Overview Narrative

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- Identify the challenges the project/program will address (may select up to two).
- Describe challenges and opportunities in addressing these challenges.
- Indicate whether applying for a Planning Grant or Implementation Grant.
- Briefly summarize the proposed project/program and how it will address the challenge area(s).

# A Note About Narratives

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Keep responses concise and within the word limit listed for each prompt.

Write narratives in a Word Document before submitting online.

Provide enough detail to help reviewers understand how your project/program or planning process will work.

# Grant Narratives

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## PLANNING GRANTS

- Describe where you are in the planning process.
- Describe your planning process for the grant period.
- Describe your timeline (include key activities and milestones).
- Describe the team's capabilities to carry out the planning process.
- Discuss potential sources of funding for implementation.
- Identify potential challenges and factors critical to the success of completing the planning process.

## IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

- Describe the project/program plan.
- Discuss the impact of the project/program (measurable outcomes and SMART objectives).
- Describe your timeline (include key activities and milestones).
- Describe the team's capabilities to implement the project/program.
- Identify potential challenges and factors critical to project/program implementation.
- Submit a signed partnership agreement.
- Optional: Discuss potential funding sources.

# Partnership Agreements

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Only required for Implementation Grant applications.

Must be submitted as a PDF.

A template is provided on the grant webpage (but you may use your own version, if preferred) – as long as the agreement is between a school and a community organization and both entities have signed the agreement.

# Budgets

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Grant requests may not exceed \$20,000. Proposals requesting over this amount will be automatically disqualified.

Grant administration funds (indirect costs) must not exceed 10% of the overall budget request. (i.e., \$2,000 for a \$20,000 grant request).

# Budget Categories

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**Personnel Expenses:** Includes salaries/benefits going towards the project/program. Calculate the amount of time personnel will dedicate to the project/program.

**Contractual Expenses:** Speaker fees or partner support related to the project/program.

**Program Expenses:** Curriculum, materials, and supplies. Provide unit prices and expected number of units when possible. Food is an allowable program expense but must be explained.

**Professional Development:** Includes training required to implement project/program. Include as much detail as possible about the source of the professional development and how it will be applied to the proposed project/program specifically.

**Program Evaluation:** Expenses related to evaluating the project/program may be included. This could include expenses related to survey development or incentives for evaluation activities. If an evaluator is working with the project/program, they should be included under Contractual Expenses.

**Marketing Expenses:** Professional printing or other marketing expenses related to promoting project/program activities.

**Technology Expenses:** Fees for programs/software critical to project/program success. The narrative must describe how the program/software is utilized with the project/program.

**Other Expenses:** Please describe any expense falling outside of the previously mentioned categories.

# Budget Narrative

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Provide enough detail about each category and include line items from your budget to give reviewers a good understanding of how grant funds would be used.

Begin each section of your narrative with the budget category and include the total requested for that category in parenthesis.

- Example: Personnel (\$6,000)

Narrative should not exceed 300 words.

Describe how you will sustain the proposed project/program, should you plan to do so, at the conclusion of the grant.

Describe how you might adjust your project/program if you do not receive the full amount of your request.



# Optional Supporting Information

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No more than two (2) letters of support that include a description of how this proposal will impact the school and/or community.

Additional documents that provide support or context to your narrative.

- Evidence of program effectiveness.
- More detailed project plan or timeline.

# Submission Requirements

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Proposals are due by 5:00 pm ET on July 1, 2024.

- Late proposals will not be accepted. The online form will close at 5:00 PM on July 1, 2024.

Applicants must provide the name, title, and email address of a legal signatory for the school/organization that is the primary applicant, to indicate approval of the proposal.

Applications must be submitted through the provided online form.

# Online Application Process

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INFORMATION & TIPS

# Accessing the Online Form

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**Weblink:**

<https://mccoyouth.org/connect/early-intervention-a-prevention-initiative/mini-grants/>

# Online Form

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## Innovation Grants

CREATE SOMETHING NEW

An initiative of MCCOY 

### Closing the Gap 2024 Innovation Grants

#### Overview

The Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY), with support from the United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI), is awarding Innovation Grants up to \$20,000 to school-community partnerships as part of our Closing the Gap Initiative. Closing the Gap is an initiative of MCCOY that aims to build better partnerships between schools and community organizations, so every student has equitable access to resources, opportunities, and a community where they belong. Based on substantial assessments and data collection from both schools and community organizations, we believe youth and families will have better outcomes when schools and communities work together to address the complex challenges

# Tips for Online Applications

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## **Rely on the Request for Proposals Document**

- All the information you need is in there – there are no surprise questions.
- Gather documents for upload ahead of time.

## **Write your proposal in a Word Document**

- Allows you to check your word count, proofread, and collaborate easily.
- Maintains a copy of the submitted grant (something our system cannot send automatically).

## **Submit EARLY**

- Technical failures happen – plan ahead!

# Grant Review Process

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FUNDING CRITERIA AND CONSIDERATIONS

# General Information

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## **Review Team**

- MCCOY Staff
- Key Stakeholders
- No conflicts of interest

## **Administrative Review**

- Check for completion
- Check uploaded documents
- Word count check

## **Content Review**

- Rubric for scoring based on core criteria
- Team Discussion

## **Award Notification**

- No later than July 31, 2024
- Grantees will receive Grant Agreements at time of Notification



# Criteria and Considerations

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In reviewing proposals and determining funding recommendations, the selection committee will take into consideration the following as relevant, among other factors:

- The number of students and families who will be **impacted and the potential outcomes** for those students and families.
- The **approach** to addressing the identified challenge area(s).
- The applicants' **capabilities** to carry out projects/programs of the type and scale proposed.
- The **feasibility** of the program or project plan, including the viability of the timeline and proposed investment, the likelihood of aligning key partners or other critical success factors, and the achievability of the anticipated outcomes.
- Whether the amount of the requested grant is **proportional to the scale and impact** of the project/program to be funded by the grant.
- Whether the applicant(s) have the **ability and commitment to sustain** the project/program after funds from the grant are expended.

# Additional Resources

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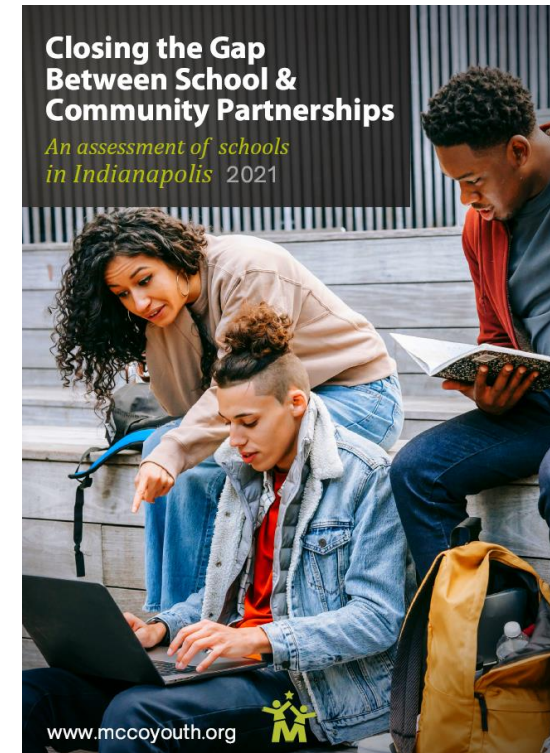
HELPFUL RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES

# Closing the Gap Approaches

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The Closing the Gap Initiative identifies four strategies that we are continuously working towards as a community. Several activities, projects, and programs align with these strategies to have impact across the socioecological framework:

- Adopting whole child approaches
- Engaging families through strengths-based practices
- Supporting and strengthening community school models
- Increasing investment in public education (advocacy efforts)



# Example Projects

Mental Health	Trauma/Violence	Social Emotional Health/Development	Chronic Absenteeism	Social Media/ Internet Use
<p>School-based mental health services</p> <p>School and community messaging campaigns</p>	<p>Mentoring Programs</p> <p><a href="#">Behavioral Threat Assessment Management</a></p>	<p>Evidence-based SEL curricula</p> <p>Afterschool programs rooted in SEL concepts</p>	<p><a href="#">Parent Teacher Home Visits</a></p> <p>Data project to get at root causes and find innovative solutions</p>	<p><a href="#">Digital/ Media Literacy workshops and curricula</a></p> <p>Digital Storytelling projects</p>

# More Support

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## **Webinar 2: Overview & Office Hours**

Thursday, June 6, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Registration Link in Chat

**Kate Roelecke**

Director of Strategy & Operations

[Kate.Roelecke@mccoyouth.org](mailto:Kate.Roelecke@mccoyouth.org)

# Q & A

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED