



*Closing the Gap*

# Innovation Grants

CREATE SOMETHING NEW

An initiative of MCCOY



## Overview & Office Hours

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

# Agenda

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Closing the Gap Overview

Innovation Grants Overview

Request for Proposals & Online Application Process

Q&A & Office Hours

# 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

**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.

# 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



# 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

- ✓ Aligned with Closing the Gap goals and five challenges
- ✓ 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

# 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

# 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.

# 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).

# 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.

# Accessing the Online Form

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**Weblink:**

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

**Innovation Grant Webpage on MCCOY's Website**

**Linked in the Request for Proposals Document**

# 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!

## **Online Form Limitations**

- You may not be able to save your progress/ revisit the form
- You will not automatically receive a copy of the submitted grant

# Grant Review Process

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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

# Q & A

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED AND POSTED