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## Large Scale 21<sup>st</sup> Century Success Grant Program

**Rolling Application Deadline: May – January 1, 2024. Foundation staff will contact applicants within 2 weeks of submission to set up a consultation.**

### Grant Overview

In 2019, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County formed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Success Coalition to inspire students to imagine a brighter future for themselves and our community. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of St. Joseph County low-income students who achieve well-paying jobs in our region by completing post-secondary degrees through the 21st Century Scholars program.

The Community Foundation's 21st Century Success Large-Scale Grant program provides funding designed to allow organizations to launch large-scale, innovative efforts to help 21st Century Scholars succeed. Think of this grant program as an opportunity to develop major programming that, if determined to be effective, will become a sustained, integral component of your organization's ongoing outreach to and support of 21st Century Scholars and potential scholars.

This opportunity will support parent and student engagement efforts focusing on 1) enrollment of eligible 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program, 2) the number of enrolled high school students that complete the requirements of the Scholar Success Program, 3) help high school students maintain a 2.5 GPA, 4) encourages high school students to take dual credit courses, AP/IB courses, or ACP courses and, 5) successful college completion with retention of 21st Century Scholarship and/or expanded enrichment activities contributing to student success or career exploration and preparation.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES:

**8<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment** events, engaging parents and students to enroll 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Scholar Success Program (SSP) Completion** activities and events. Follow-through to ensure the 12 activities are completed and are confirmed in each student's ScholarTrack account. Scholarship requirements include Core 40 diploma, 2.5 min GPA (4.0 scale); Create a Graduation Plan; Participate in Extra-Curricular/Service Activity; Watch "Paying for College 101"; Career Assessment; Workplace Experience; Estimate Costs of College; Campus Visit; Take the ACT or SAT; Search for Scholarships; Submit College Application; Watch "College Success 101"; File FAFSA. Funds can also support efforts aimed at Dual Credit, AP/IB, ACP course completion.

**College Success and Completion** activities and events. Initiatives to support the following: Annually, Complete 30 Credits Per Year, Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, File FAFSA to enable students to retain 21<sup>st</sup> Century scholarship. Other eligible efforts could include *expanded* activity contributing to student success (summer bridge program, new student orientation, first-year experience, living-learning community) and/or career exploration and preparation activities (informational interview; job shadow, professional resume; portfolio; internship; student-faculty research).

### **What funding is available?**

Organizations can request up to \$50,000. Up to \$350,000 is available.

### **Who is eligible? \***

1. Middle schools with at least 30 eligible 8<sup>th</sup> graders per Learn More Indiana's website (<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/resources/scholars-data/>; select cohort 2027).
2. High schools with at least 60 enrolled scholars (total across all grade levels) and Cohort 2024 SSP Completion Rate of at least 50% per the Learn More Indiana website (see website above).
3. Other 501(c)3 or tax-exempt organizations serving St. Joseph County youth. Collaborations with middle- and high schools are encouraged. Such organizations could include
  - a. Youth-serving and mentoring organizations,
  - b. Regional higher educational institutions serving at least 10 active college scholars (excluding IU South Bend and Ivy Tech Community College),
  - c. Other entities with expertise that position them to address the above priorities (Libraries, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

\*Any applicant school must grant the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County Community Partner status with ICHE, which provides access to student ScholarTrack data.

### **How does an organization apply?**

Application materials must be submitted via the online application system found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfsjc>.

### **How will proposals be reviewed?**

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Estimate of the number of students and families to be served by intended programs, events, outreach;
2. Emphasis on completion of specific activities detailed in the FUNDING PRIORITIES section
3. Prioritization of 8<sup>th</sup> grade student enrollment; high school senior SSP completion by June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline; active college level scholar retention and graduation.
4. Ability to support students in verifying activity completion in their ScholarTrack Accounts;
5. Means and capacity to track and report outcomes;
6. Size of budget relative to pursued outcomes;
7. Organizational track record serving and engaging with the target population.

**Note: Favorable outcomes will weigh positively when future grant applications are submitted. ICHE indicates Scholar Success Program (SSP) labs, which assist with the completion of required activities, can be most effective when work is integrated into classes.**

### **How will organizations be notified?**

Foundation staff will contact applicants within 2 weeks of submission to set up a consultation about the application. The Community Foundation will notify applicants of decisions within 6 weeks of application deadline.

### **How will funded programs be evaluated?**

Organizations will be required to submit a final grant report upon completion of the project which compares outlined goals to actual outcomes.