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Small Scale 21st Century Success Grant Program 2023-2024

Rolling Application Deadline: August - June 1, 2024. Online application submission is required.

Grant Overview

In 2019, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County formed the 21st 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 is pleased to offer the 21st Century Success Small Scale Grant program for 2023-24 academic year. This opportunity will support efforts completed by June 30, 2024, to maximize 1) enrollment of eligible 7th/8th graders in the 21st 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) the number of locally enrolled college students who retain the scholarship and/or expanded enrichment activities contributing to student success or career exploration and preparation. Priority should focus on 8th graders, high school seniors, and college students at risk of losing their 21st Century Scholarship.

FUNDING PRIORITIES:

8th grade enrollment* events that engage parents and/or students to learn more about the program, the ScholarTrack system, and set up ScholarTrack accounts. *July 2023: New auto-enrollment may change how 7th & 8th grade students are reached and may mean events and program delivery will need to be reviewed to meet new opportunities and challenges.

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, and File FAFSA to enable students to retain 21st Century Scholarship eligibility. 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 may receive up to \$2,500 per grant. Up to \$50,000 is available with half reserved for K-12 school programming.

Who is eligible? *

1. Middle schools with at least 30 eligible 8th graders per Learn More Indiana's website (<https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/resources/scholars-data/>; select cohort 2028).
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,
 - 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 www.cfsjc.org/grantapplication anytime until June 1, 2024 with all activities completed by June 30, 2024.

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 8th grade student enrollment; high school senior SSP completion by June 30th deadline; and college retention for current scholars;
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?

The committee will review requests and will notify the organization of the status within 14 days after submission of a complete application.

How will funded programs be evaluated?

Organizations will be required to submit a brief final grant report upon completion of the project.