Innovation Grant Information Session

Innovation Works Advisory Committee Members

As part of our effort to foster new ideas, a number of grants are available to fund innovative strategies:

Montgomery College Foundation donors have provided up to…

$40,000

…to fund projects focused on advancing student enrollment, retention and engagement, and closing the achievement gap for underrepresented students.

Innovation Grant Information Session

Today's Focus:

- Grant Theme

- Application Process and Tips

- Generating Big Ideas

- Resources Available

- Questions

Grant Theme

"Achieving Student Success Through Bold, Innovative, and Transformational Opportunities"

The MC Foundation Innovation Fund has up to $40,000 for projects that advance student access, completion, and post-completion success and address bold and innovative opportunities that align with our transformational aspirations are ideal initiatives for this grant. The grant is made possible this year through the generosity of Montgomery College Foundation donors.

Projects that have direct linkage to student success, social justice, equity and inclusion, advance student completion, student post-completion success, and extend the impact of our educational environment into the community are ideal initiatives for this grant. Grants that promote collaboration and cross-functional teams will be given greater consideration.

We are looking for your best thinking and innovative strategies that will impact a broad range of students. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students are eligible to submit proposals. Students desiring to participate are required to partner with a faculty or staff member to submit an application.

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Most Successful Grant Applications…

- Connect to the grant theme
- Connect to issues of: social justice, equity and inclusion, closing the achievement gap, part-time and first-generation college students
- Collaborate across disciplines and departments
- Include data and measurable outcomes
- Demonstrate direct benefit to students
- Contain BIG IDEAS
- Are INNOVATIVE!!

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Tip: Check out abstracts of past grant winners!

https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/special-programs/innovation-works/index.html#grantpreparationmaterial

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Grant Proposal Must Haves

Abstract

- Not to exceed 100 words

Statement

- About relevant themes

- Student success
- Student graduation, completion, and retention goals
- Student transfer goals
- Equity and inclusion
- Part-time students
- Support for newly enrolled (first-time) students
- Civility
- Building a culture of evidence
- Social justice

Narrative

- Description of the proposed project

- Explanation how the project connects to the grant theme

- Emphasis on the collaborative and innovative elements

- Measureable outcomes

- Estimation of the number of students who will be either directly or indirectly affected by the proposed project

- Timeline for implementation

- Research/data to demonstrate a need for the proposed project

Budget

- A detailed explanation and justification

- Less than two pages

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Evaluation Rubric

Applicants are encouraged to use the following criteria to evaluate the quality of their proposal:
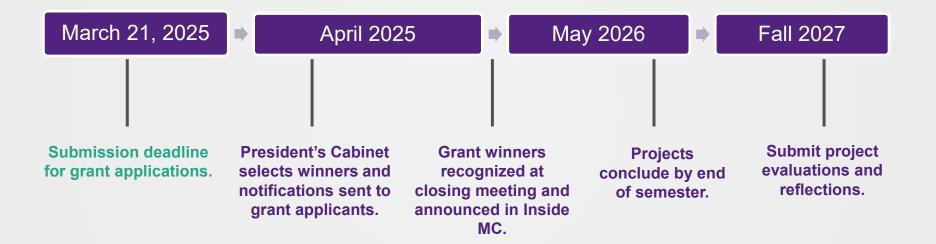
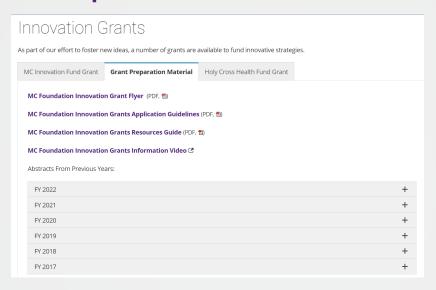|	
Description & Objectives	Offers specific, clear, and obtainable objectives that align with MC's goals and the innovation grant theme. Includes budget justification and timeline for implementation.
Innovative	Demonstrates engagement in a critical conversation, issue, or idea that generates a proactive solution to the challenges and opportunities facing MC's students and the community.
Improves Student Success	Promotes specific improvements to student success and/or the broader College community.
Measurable Outcomes	Clearly states benchmarks for success and measurable outcomes that identify what participants are expected to receive/learn as a result of engaging in this project and provides a plan for data collection during implementation.
Collaborative	Demonstrates a high level of collaboration between students, faculty, staff and other identified departments for project planning and implementation and/or how the project leverages expertise across disciplines or units.
Student Impact	Provides specific numbers of students and audience projections (preference given for higher number of students impacted directly or indirectly)
Data	Supplies College and industry data supporting and documents need for the project. Clearly documents data origin and source. Method for data collection and analysis supports stated objectives/outcomes.

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Timeline

Key Dates & Events

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March 21, 2025	→	April 2025	→	May 2026	→	Fall 2027

Submission deadline for grant applications.

President's Cabinet selects winners and notifications sent to grant applicants.

Grant winners recognized at closing meeting and announced in Inside MC.

Projects conclude by end of semester.

Submit project evaluations and reflections.

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Grant Preparation Materials & Resources

Go to: https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/special-programs/innovation-works/index.html#grantpreparationmaterial

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"If I have 1,000 ideas and only one turns out to be good, I am satisfied."

Alfred Nobel

Questions? E-mail: innovationworks@montgomerycollege.edu