

JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: 3/10/2026

Contact Information:

Organization Name:	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit	Contact Name:	Deanna Watson
Address:	Education Foundation (MCIUEF) 2 W. Lafayette Street, Norristown, PA 19401	Contact Title:	Board Member
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Web Address:	www.mciuef.org	Fax:	
		Year Incorporated:	1998

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes ___ No ___

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture and Humanities
 Environment/Animal Welfare
 Health
 Human Services
 Education
 Religion

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served:

MCIUEF generally supports education throughout Montgomery County, but has recently began to expand some support to PA.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:

MCIUEF assists more than 7,000 students each year across Montgomery County schools, serving learners from diverse racial, social, and economic backgrounds, with a particular focus on students with varied needs.

Mission Statement: **please see attached.**

Organization Description: **please see attached.**

Annual Budget \$ <u>100,000</u>	<u>0</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>90</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>17</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>0</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>Varies</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	per project/per person

Top 3-5 funding sources: ETIC Contributions
Grant Funding
Fundraising
Corporate Funding (Sponsorships)

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 60,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: **please see attached.**

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ORGANIZATION SUMMARY:

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Education Foundation (MCIUEF) is a non-profit organization established in 1998 under the name “*Special Needs Foundation*” to provide scholarship opportunities for students with diverse needs to attend summer camp and post-secondary colleges. As educational experiences continued to evolve, the foundation rebranded its name, mission and initiatives to expand our support not only for students, but also for families, educators and community members.

Today, MCIUEF partners with all 22 public school districts in Montgomery County and our parent organization, MCIU, to strengthen educational access across the county.

In addition to continuing to fund the summer scholarships, we now support a wide range of county and statewide academic competitions, student events, STEM initiatives, youth empowerment programs and workforce development opportunities.

Examples of initiatives we support include (but are not limited to):

- **Developmental and educational support** for individuals with diverse needs ages 3-21, including MCIU’s Rapid Response Team, Autism Support Program, Pathways to Empowerment and their EnVision/Transition Services.
- **County and statewide academic competitions** such as Reading Olympics, Dream-it Design-it, Math 24, the Pennsylvania Regional Academic competition, and more.
- **STEM enrichment** programs such as the Environmental Mobile Unit (EMU) and CSO support.
- **Workforce Development and career readiness** through MontcoWorks Now.
- **Virtual Learning Access** through the Montgomery Virtual Program (MVP).
- **Student-centered development programs** such as Voices for Education and Dreaming Forward.

Moving forward, our organization seeks to broaden its outreach by establishing a county-wide leadership initiative that engages community leaders and executives, while also expanding support for a growing number of programs administered through MCIU and our partnered school districts that exceed their budget.

MISSION:

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Education Foundation (MCIUEF) expands access to educational opportunities and enrichment experiences that support academic success, personal growth, and workforce readiness through community outreach and strategic partnerships.

VISION:

To be a transformative force for our community through service, education, and leadership.

GOALS:

- **Enrich Learning & Expand Opportunity**
- **Grow Workforce & Leadership Pathways**
- **Strengthen Partnerships & Sustainable Funding**

PROPOSAL REQUEST:

Project Title: *Inclusive Access to Post-Secondary Success*

Funding Requested: \$60,000

Proposal Summary:

The MCIU Education Foundation seeks \$50,000 to launch a renewable, multi-year scholarship program for graduating Montgomery County public school students who have an active IEP or 504 plan and demonstrate financial disadvantages.

These scholarships will support students enrolling in accredited post-secondary education, with a priority focus on Montgomery County Community College. Reducing financial stress enables families to focus on identifying the programs, accommodations, and pathways that best align with their students' individual strengths and long-term goals.

Montgomery County Needs & Issues

Many families of students with IEPs and 504 plans navigate complex educational systems from early childhood through high school, balancing individualized planning, specialized support, and financial constraints. Although the county serves thousands of students with IEPs and 504 plans, these students enroll in college at significantly lower rates, often due to financial hardship that compounds the challenges they already experience. Families frequently manage higher medical, care-related, and educational support costs, leaving little capacity to cover even modest postsecondary expenses such as textbooks, transportation, or course fees. These barriers make it difficult for students to enter or remain in higher education, even when they are academically prepared and motivated.

At the same time, Montgomery County's economy increasingly relies on workers with postsecondary credentials, particularly in fields like healthcare, manufacturing, education, and information technology. Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) and other local colleges will play a vital role in meeting these workforce needs by offering accessible, flexible and affordable programs, keeping the funding within the county.

Project Impact:

Currently, the MCIUEF offers a one-time scholarship of \$500 to graduating Montgomery County school district seniors but expanded funding would allow the program to increase both the number and size of scholarships awarded. Providing multi-year renewable assistance will help boost postsecondary enrollment and improve retention and completion rates by reducing the financial pressures that often force students to pause or abandon their studies.

Centering ongoing support for students with diverse needs and limited financial resources strengthens educational equity and promotes greater accessibility and inclusion across Montgomery County's higher-education pathways.

Overall Strategies to implement project:

To implement this project effectively, the MCIU Education Foundation will announce scholarship opportunities to all Montgomery County school district counselors, special education teachers, MCIU transition educators, and - if permitted - share the information with MCCC enrollment office to ensure broad awareness. Applications will be thoroughly reviewed to verify accuracy and completeness, including high school transcripts, proof of acceptance to a postsecondary program, and confirmation of an active IEP or 504 plan. Once awards are granted, the Foundation will follow up with recipients annually to confirm eligibility and process scholarship renewals, ensuring continued support throughout their postsecondary journey.

Importance of Funding now:

Post-secondary affordability remains a primary barrier for low-income students with diverse needs. The need is immediate for graduating seniors and recent graduates seeking the next step to credentials and employment. Expanding this fund now enables more students to enroll, remain on track, and complete graduating successfully.

TIMETABLE & OUTCOMES:

- **January:** Scholarship announcement distributed to all Montgomery County school district counselors, special education teachers, MCIU transition educators, etc.
- **First Week of April:** Application deadline - all applications will be reviewed for accuracy and completion.
- **Second Week of April:** Completed applications will be voted on by MCIUEF board members.
- **Late April–August:** Scholarship check will be issued for accepted applicants.
- **Annually (Years 2–4):** Awarded students will be contacted for renewal, if complete, check will be issued immediately.

Anticipated outcomes include an increased number of scholarship recipients, higher first-year enrollment at MCCC or comparable local institutions for learners with diverse needs, and a greater number of students successfully returning for their second through fourth years.

IMPACT DEMONSTRATED:

Impact will be demonstrated through annual tracking by collecting data for the number of applicants, number of scholarships awarded, first-year enrollment rates at MCCC or comparable institutions, and year-to-year renewal and persistence data for returning students. Together, these measures will provide a clear picture of how the scholarship program increases access, improves retention, and strengthens long-term educational outcomes for learners with diverse needs in Montgomery County.

ITEMIZED PROJECTED BUDGET:

Grant funding will support post-secondary scholarships for graduating seniors in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania public schools who have active IEPs or 504 plans. Eligible students from the graduating classes of 2027 and 2028 may apply for scholarships of \$750 per year for up to four years of college. Up to 10 students per graduating class will be initially selected, and recipients may reapply, up to four consistent years, while enrolled in college, helping to provide continued financial support as they pursue post-secondary education.

Year	# of awards	Amount/year	Term	Total
2026-2027 Graduate	10	\$750	4 years	\$30,000
2027-2028 Graduate	10	\$750	4 years	\$30,000
TOTAL	20			\$60,000