

Montgomery College Foundation's Innovation Grant Proposal Application Guidelines



2025-2026 Grant Theme

"Innovating Access: Empowering Every Learner, Enriching Every Pathway"

Total funding available up to \$40,000.00

Submit applications by May 26, 2026

Project must conclude by May 31, 2027

Questions? Email: innovationworks@montgomerycollege.edu

The MC Foundation Innovation Fund has up to \$40,000 for projects that advance student success and create a transformative educational environment that meets the evolving needs of its diverse student body and the broader community. The grant is made possible this year through the generosity of Montgomery College Foundation donors.

This year's theme encapsulates the College's commitment to:

- **Equity and Inclusion:** Eliminating barriers to education and ensuring all students have the opportunity to succeed.
- **Student-Centered Innovation:** Leveraging technology and innovative teaching methods to enhance the student experience.
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthening partnerships to support workforce development and lifelong learning.

Projects that have direct linkage to student success, social justice, equity and inclusion, advance student 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 wishing to participate must partner with a faculty or staff member to submit an application.

Innovation Fund Grants should be used for:

- Designing new "out of the box" thinking initiatives fostering student success
- Creating new programs or experiences that go "above and beyond"

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- Developing projects:
 - related to academic and student affairs
 - promoting student success from academic, student support, or operational department(s) of the institution
 - expanding on “typical classroom” experiences that can be applied to multiple sections and/or courses and taught by multiple instructors.

Innovation Fund Grants should not be used for:

- Funding day-to-day programs operations
- Expanding existing programs
- Attending conferences
- Purchasing classroom supplies or other instructional support (except as necessary for the innovation)

Grant proposal application should include the following sections:

1. Abstract (*not to exceed 100 words*)

2. Themes (*please indicate all relevant themes*)

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

3. Proposal Narrative

- Project Description—a detailed description of your proposed project
- Theme Connection—how this project connects to this year’s grant theme and improves student success
- Innovative Solution—ways the project leverages expertise across disciplines or departments providing an innovative solution
- Measurable Outcomes—a descriptive explanation of a successful project including a plan for collecting data during implementation
- Student Impact—the estimated number of students affected by the proposal (directly/indirectly)
- Timeline—a timeline for implementation
- Data Support—research data that supports the need for the proposed project

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4. Proposed Budget

	Amount (\$)
Faculty or Staff Salary	
Student Assistant	
Honoraria	
Scholarships	
Stipends	
Conference/Meetings	
Contract Services	
Equipment	
Local Travel	
Professional Development	
Supplies	
Other (specify)	
Total Budget Requested:	

5. Budget Justification

- Explain the proposed budget and how it is an efficient use of resources
- Identify and explain Montgomery College facilities or resources required to implement project, if appropriate. *(For example, if Office of Facilities, Office of Information Technology, or collaboration with other departments is required, documentation of this collaboration is strongly encouraged in this section of the application.)*

Applicants are encouraged to use the following criteria to evaluate the quality of their proposal:

Description & Objectives	Offers specific, clear, and attainable 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.

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Student Impact	Provides specific numbers of students and audience projections (preference given for a higher number of students impacted directly or indirectly).
Data	Supplies College and industry data supporting and documenting the need for the project. Clearly documents the origin and source of the data. The method for data collection and analysis supports the stated objectives/outcomes.