



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County Awarded \$3.75MM Summer Programming Grant

February 9, 2024 (South Bend, Ind.)—The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) announced today the Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County (BGCSJC) as the largest recipient of the Expanding What Works grant, a new opportunity designed to increase access to high-quality summer programming for over 3,000 Hoosier students.

The grant encourages regional collaboration between community organizations, local nonprofits, municipal partners and/or local school corporations to expand the successful [Indy Summer Learning Labs \(ISLL\)](#) initiative across the state, specifically targeting students with the greatest academic need.

The funding will enable BGCSJC to run a 5-week summer program at 16 sites across its service area, for 2,500 local students, at no cost to families.

“This program exemplifies our commitment to supporting families and empowering students with the resources they need to thrive academically and personally during the summer months. It will not only address the summer slide effect through academic enrichment, but will also incorporate traditional Club programming that is both fun and community-oriented,” said Jacqueline Kronk, BGCSJC CEO. “This initiative is made possible through partnerships with our local school districts, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to summer learning.”

The 2024 Expanding What Works grant recipients include:

- **Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County** in South Bend (\$3,750,000)
- **Urban League of Northwest Indiana** in Gary (\$1,125,000)
- **Creating Avenues for Student Transformation (CAST)** in Salem (\$115,073)
- **Wabash County YMCA** in Wabash (\$396,000)

“We have put a lot of focus on making sure the financial investments we are making show a return on investment for our students,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “This is a prime example of seeing the impactful results and leveraging what we have learned to scale those opportunities statewide so that more students have access. Maximizing student learning requires an

all-hands on deck approach, and what an excellent example the communities of South Bend, Gary, Salem and Wabash are leading to positively impact our students.”

Grantees will receive support from Indianapolis-based education nonprofit, The Mind Trust, and will partner with the Lavinia Group, which will provide five weeks of reading and math lessons for incoming first through ninth grade students, teacher planning resources, pre- and post-assessments and virtual onboarding training, as well as in-person coaching for facilitators. The award amounts represent approximately \$1,500 per student served for the five-week summer program.

"At a time when our state needs to focus on helping students recover from the learning losses of the pandemic—and prepare for the workforce—we must recognize the pivotal role places like the Boys & Girls Clubs play in supplementing classroom education and providing essential support for our youth," said Sen. Ryan Mishler.

The Expanding What Works grant will continue the efforts of ISLL, which saw significant academic gains in math and reading at the end of the five-week program. In 2023, participating students saw a 23 percentage point increase in reading scores and a 22 percentage point increase in math scores, as measured by pre- and post-assessment data. Funding for Expanding What Works is allocated through the state’s biennial budget. To learn more about the Expanding What Works grant, click [here](#).

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About the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County (BGCSJC), a mainstay within the community, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024, has enabled and inspired young people, especially those who need Clubs most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Established in 1974, BGCSJC serves more than 3,000 young people annually at 30 Club sites across St. Joseph County, White, and Fulton Counties and has established before and after care and summer programs in partnership with 12 school districts. For additional information and enrollment details, please visit www.bgcsjc.org.

About The Mind Trust

The Mind Trust is an Indianapolis-based education nonprofit that works to build a system of schools that gives every student, no exceptions, access to a high-quality education. The Mind Trust does this by building a supportive environment for schools through policy and community engagement, empowering talented, diverse educators to launch new schools, and providing existing schools with the support they need to hire world-class talent and achieve excellence. Since 2006, The Mind Trust has supported the launch of 49 schools, 15 education nonprofit organizations, and has helped place more than 1,800 teachers and school leaders in Indianapolis classrooms.

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