

PARTNERS IN POSSIBILITY GRANT

2026 Request for Proposals



PROJECT SUMMARY

The Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) will award competitive grants of up to \$4,000. Programs will receive half of the award at project launch, with the remainder released after MASN reviews the final report. The Partners in Possibility Grant supports projects that strengthen partnerships between afterschool programs and local businesses or community organizations.

GRANT GOALS

- Foster partnerships that support expanded workforce initiatives during afterschool hours.
- Mobilize community resources to enhance STEM and workforce learning experiences.
- Ensure high-quality opportunities for career exploration, post-secondary planning, entrepreneurship, service learning, and/or STEM.

TIMELINE

- RFP available: March 2, 2026
- Proposal deadline: April 30, 2026 (11:59 p.m. Central Time)
- Award announcement: May 18, 2026
- Initial funding disbursement: June 1, 2026
- Grant activity period: June 1–December 15, 2026
- Final report due: December 31, 2026

NEED

Many Missouri youth lack consistent access to high-quality learning experiences that help them understand careers and post-secondary options. The Partners in Possibility Grant addresses this gap by supporting partnerships between a business or community organization and an afterschool program to provide workforce education and real-world learning experiences for students.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Applicants must clearly describe project goals, expected outcomes, and planned activities. Outcomes may include but are not limited to:

- Hosting a workforce or post-secondary education summit or fair.
- Identifying and connecting students to the people, programs, and organizations in your community that help students learn about careers.
- Building business–education partnerships to work on a project benefiting the community.
- Expanding STEM or entrepreneurship clubs with the help of community partners.
- Creating opportunities for job shadows, internships, or apprenticeships.
- Supporting youth entrepreneurship events.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include Missouri based chambers of commerce and any local community organization or business that is not a school district in partner with an afterschool program. If no afterschool program currently exists, applicants may propose convening partners to begin one.

Each leadership team must include:

- 1) A business or community organization representative.
- 2) An afterschool program representative with authority to implement changes or other convening partners in the absence of an afterschool program as outlined above.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed competitively based on:

- Local context and demonstrated need – 15 points
- Community commitment – 15 points
- Project goals, outcomes, and activities – 40 points
- Planning team composition – 15 points
- Budget and narrative – 15 points

BUDGET

Applicants may request up to \$4,000. Eligible expenses include:

- Publications, meeting materials, outreach
- Meeting costs (venue, food, A/V)
- Travel for speakers/participants (per state guidelines)
- Speaker honoraria (max \$500/day)
- Project materials or equipment

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awardees must complete proposed activities within the grant period and submit a final 3–5 page report by December 31, 2026. Final payment will be made upon review of this document.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Cover letter with lead contact and fiscal agent information
- Proposal (2–5 pages)
- Letters of commitment from leadership team members
- Budget and Narrative (Attachment A)

SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO:

Aaron Banks – abanks@missouri.edu
Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN)

PROPOSAL BUDGET TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

- Total budget amount may not exceed \$4,000. Details on additional in-kind or monetary contributions may be attached as a separate document.
- Please attach a brief budget narrative detailing the cost assumptions for all items budgeted below. Be as specific as possible. Additional information regarding budgeted line items may be requested after award or at grant end reporting.
- Travel and lodging reimbursements must be consistent with state guidelines. Consultant fees and honorarium expenses must not exceed \$500 per day.

COST CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Personnel: Staffing for project	
Publications, Communications, Outreach: Design, printing, mailing, materials, etc.	
Meeting Costs: Space rental, food and beverage, A/V equipment	
Speaker and Participant Travel: Detail airfare, lodging, per diem	
Speakers: Honorarium (\$500/day maximum. Travel expenses should be listed above under travel)	
Project/Event Materials: Curriculum, supplies, etc.	
Other Expenses: Describe below	
TOTAL	