



## Missouri Afterschool Network Entrepreneurship Micro-Grants Call for Applications

**Applications due: Sept 30, 2020**  
**Round 1 Projects completed by: May 30, 2021**

**Missouri afterschool programs: you can receive \$1,000 to support your middle and high school students in building an entrepreneurial mindset and skillset during 2020-2021!**

- Apply for a micro-grant by Sept 30, 2020.
- Join a peer learning community of afterschool staff, accessing nationally-recognized curriculum and staff training for youth entrepreneurship programming!
- Become eligible for Round 2 funding Spring 2021, and extend projects through Dec. 2021!

Click to register for an info session [Wed, Aug 12, 10-11 a.m.](#) or [Wed, Aug 19, 1-2 p.m.](#) to learn more!

### Call for Micro-Grant Applications

Missouri Afterschool Network is excited to announce up to 10 micro-grants will be awarded to Missouri afterschool programs this fall to support projects that demonstrate the potential for middle and high school entrepreneurship during 2020-2021.

Objectives of the micro-grants include:

1. *Unleashing the potential of students as entrepreneurial thinkers and problem-solvers.*
2. *Engaging middle and high school students on a youth entrepreneurship pathway.*
3. *Growing afterschool program capacity for entrepreneurship programming.*
4. *Sparking new partnerships and networking between afterschool programs and communities*
5. *Raising awareness of afterschool's impact on education, workforce and entrepreneurial development.*

Micro-grant projects will draw upon curriculum, training, technical assistance, and networking through MASN's Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative. Grantees have access to two nationally-recognized providers of resources for youth entrepreneurship education: Young Entrepreneur Institute and Venture Lab. These partners are working with MASN and nine other State Afterschool Networks to expand entrepreneurship afterschool.

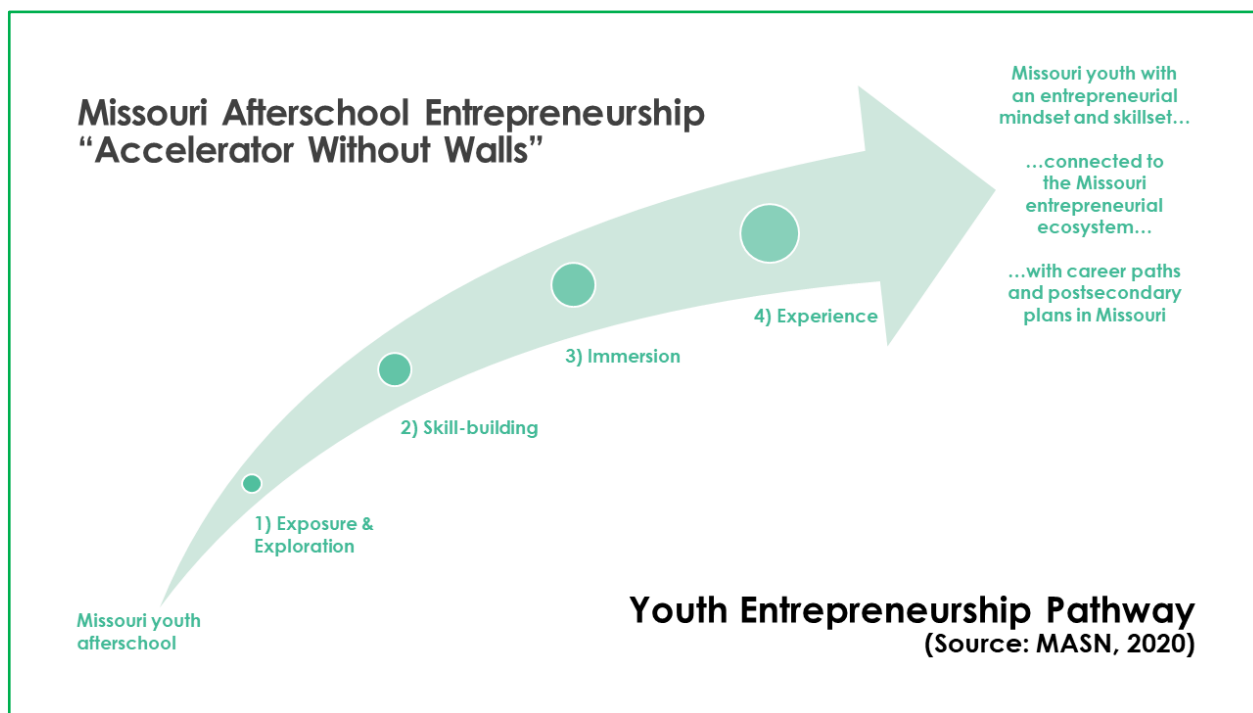
Projects can also utilize partnerships, curriculum and resources from other youth-serving organizations, such as 4-H, Junior Achievement, or Scouts. Projects should foster new and innovative partnerships with community and/or regional organizations, and show potential to be sustained over time.

## Targeted Students

The target audience for projects includes middle and high school students, grades 6-12. Projects should specifically reach female, minority, and/or rural students (communities with population under 50,000) – groups that are under-represented among entrepreneurs.

## Youth Entrepreneurship Pathway

Projects will provide activities and learning experiences that start middle and high school students on a youth entrepreneurship pathway (see Pathway diagram below).



### Exposure, Exploration & Skill-Building:

- a) **Exposure & Exploration** – students experience entrepreneurship and see themselves as entrepreneurs; work together to generate ideas and solve problems; develop entrepreneurial thinking through afterschool activities; recognize business opportunities that excite them; begin to connect with local entrepreneurs.
- b) **Skill-Building** – students start to “flex” their entrepreneurial mindsets; work together to test and validate business ideas and opportunities that excite them; build skills entrepreneurs use to turn ideas into plans for action; begin to connect with local entrepreneurs, educators, and professionals who support them.

### Potential Projects

Micro-grants will be awarded for imaginative and flexible projects which meet the needs of students, families, programs and communities during COVID-19. Virtual programming and other safe, creative methods of engaging students are encouraged. While afterschool programs determine activities, fundable projects could include Young Entrepreneur Institute pitch challenge, Venture Lab program, youth business fair, virtual business camp, social ventures addressing a community issue, student teams innovating product prototypes, students as marketing experts for local entrepreneurs, non-profits, or government agencies. For entrepreneurship project resources, please visit <https://moafterschool.org/entrep/>.

## **Micro-Grant Awards**

Up to 10 micro-grants (stipends) of \$1,000 will be awarded to Missouri afterschool programs during Round 1. Round 1 grantees will be eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 or more, depending on number of applications/grantees during Round 2 (May 1-Dec 31, 2021). Round 2 projects will add Youth Entrepreneurship Pathway components that include more focused and extended student experiences, such as business planning, consultations, internships, and startup mentoring.

## **Due Date for Applications**

Applications for Round 1 micro-grants are open August 15-September 30, 2020. Funded sites will be notified and projects can begin as early as October 15, 2020.

## **Expectations of Funded Programs**

- Round 1 grantees will receive up to a \$1,000 stipend for entrepreneurship education projects.
- Round 1 projects will wrap up by May 30, 2021.
- Grantees will become part of a peer learning community (PLC) with other funded programs, and agree to participate in conference calls every other month for networking, updates, and technical assistance.
- Grantees will participate in training/coaching with Young Entrepreneurs Institute and/or Venture Lab.
- Grantees agree to complete project-related evaluation and a brief final report by June 30, 2021.
- Grantees will ensure sponsorship credits to Missouri Afterschool Network and Charles S. Mott Foundation.
- Grantees may be asked to share results on webinars or during conference presentations.

## **Informational Sessions**

To learn more and Q&A with MASN Staff and representatives from Young Entrepreneur Institute (YEI) and Venture Lab, register for a Round 1 micro-grant info session by clicking on one of these dates:

- [Wednesday, August 12, 10-11 a.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, August 19, 1-2 p.m.](#)

**Ready to apply? To access the application, click on...**  
**[Entrepreneurship Micro-Grant Application](#)**

We welcome your questions on the Call for Applications, or steps in the micro-grant process. Please email us at [cowsertm@missouri.edu](mailto:cowsertm@missouri.edu) or [hennesss@missouri.edu](mailto:hennesss@missouri.edu).

Thank you!