

Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County 2025 Finalist One Pager Summary – Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center (<https://www.evvimmigrantwelcomecenter.com/>)

Background. The IWRC envisions a thriving community where immigrants are welcomed, have equitable access to opportunities, and leverage their talent to strengthen our region. Our mission is to accomplish this vision, our mission is to serve as a trusted partner and advocate for immigrants, providing opportunities that help them thrive so we can build a more welcoming and prosperous region for all.

Statement of Need. We are requesting funding to help supplement current funds for the Next Generation Multilingual Learner Academy (Next Gen MLL Academy) so that we can expand the afterschool program one more day and offer this program to more students. We currently have funding to offer the program 2 days a week for 30 weeks for up to 168 students. However, there is a growing need for after school support for students from diverse backgrounds this upcoming year than when we initially developed the program (fall 2024) given recent changes in federal education funding for underserved populations. Although we are new nonprofit, we have long-standing expertise on our board and staff in working with multilingual learners and great partnerships with local schools to facilitate implementation of the Academy

Program or Project Description. The Next Gen MLL Academy offers summer camps and afterschool programming to help multilingual learners develop stronger identities and skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. The after-school program component started this week for the 2025-2026 school year. Activities include providing support with homework completion/tutoring, practice developing English language proficiency, partnership with the SWIN Workforce Board to provide career development activities for middle and high school students, and collaboration with community partners for enrichment opportunities. Funding from the Women's Fund will help expand the after-school enrichment program to 3 days p/week for 30 weeks for the 2025-2026 school year, making this opportunity accessible to more students and providing more support for participants (an additional day of support) who may not have this type of assistance available elsewhere. We will use funds from this grant to supplement transportation costs, support hiring a Program Coordinator assistant to help with logistics and programming as the program expands and purchase a computer for them, and pay for additional supplies and/or materials needed to implement the program a 3rd day.

Program or Project Outcomes. We expect to see the following outcomes as a result of the Next Gen MLL Academy: students having a greater belief in the ability to succeed in school and beyond, and in the importance of education and career and leadership skills development to be successful in the future; development of more positive relationships with peers and adults and school (acting in ways that lead to less disciplinary infractions; greater motivation to develop effective goals and plans for their future, and take steps to achieve them; improved school attendance, course completion, and passing grades in school; greater sense of belonging along peers at school and the community at large; greater belief that their personal journeys, identities, and stories can be useful contributions to our region. We believe these are important skills and attitudes our multilingual learners need to succeed in today's world given regular challenges of adapting to a new culture and learning a new language, as well as recent immigration policy changes.