

Budget

Medina City SD (044388) - Medina County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (319)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

[Plus/Minus Sheet \(opens new window\)](#)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		0.00	0.00	0.00	10,289.00	0.00	0.00	10,289.00
Support Services		0.00	0.00	33,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,000.00
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prof Development		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		0.00	0.00	33,000.00	10,289.00	0.00	0.00	43,289.00
<b>Adjusted Allocation</b>								0.00
<b>Remaining</b>								-43,289.00

Application

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**Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.**

**A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity**

1. Project Title: Evolve Academy Career Readiness Program

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

Provide special education high school students who are at risk of dropping out of school, or not graduating, an alternative to the traditional school environment. Students will complete core academics needed for graduation, and learn career readiness skills ('soft skills'). These skills will prepare them for placement in a workplace setting and improve school attendance, reduce suspensions and increase school engagement.

20 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Peg Hufnagel, Principal

Organizational name of lead applicant: Evolve Academy (Medina City Schools)

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 011707

Address of lead applicant: 222 S. Broadway St., Medina, OH 44256

Phone Number of lead applicant: 330-636-4213

Email Address of lead applicant: Hufnagel@mcssoh.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A

Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): N/A

Address of secondary applicant: N/A

Phone number of secondary applicant: N/A

Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates, Medina County Workforce Development, GAR Foundation, United Way, Solutions Behavioral Healthcare

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: - (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

\* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

\* If a partnership or consortium will be established, please include the signed Straight A Description of Nature of Partnership or Description of Nature of Consortium Agreement.

[UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx](#)

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

Intervention Specialist - Core Curriculum Academics; leadership, mentoring, teaching and support to students during Career Readiness Program Solutions Behavior Healthcare Mental Health Specialist - Social and emotion support in the classroom during academics and in the classroom and community during Career Readiness. Jobs for Ohio's Graduates Career Specialist - Provide students training, support and mentoring in career preparation, life skills, leadership development and job attainment and placement. Provide one year follow up after graduation from the program. Administrator - provide leadership through coaching and role modeling; maintain direction of the team toward the vision; collect and analyze data for continuous improvement.

**B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes**

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)

Student achievement

Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast

Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one:)

New - never before implemented

Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments

Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements

Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

Due, in part, to a decrease in services offered to students within the school setting, Evolve Academy has seen a substantial increase in the number of high school students who are dropping out of school or withdrawing to attend online schools. In the past 4 years, 27% of the high school students have either dropped out of school or withdrawn to online schools, compared to 15% the previous four years. Students attend Evolve Academy because they have not been successful in their traditional school setting. The goal of Evolve, an alternative school is to develop social-emotional skills and transition the student back to their home school when they are ready. These students that drop out are disengaged from any educational process. These students need to be reengaged in a nontraditional educational setting. Core academics will be taught in a project-based learning environment, meeting the needs of the common core, while actively engaging students in the learning process. Students will earn elective credits through participation in the Career Readiness Program. This program will follow the Core Competencies established by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) and lead by their Career Specialist. This program will include community service projects, competitions within JOG and possible work placement. The goals of participation in this program are to improve self-worth, develop competencies in the following areas: career development, job search, job survival, basic skills, leadership and personal. The ultimate goal is to encourage students to graduate and become healthy, well-adjusted members of our community. Plan Outline: -Students will complete academic requirements through project based learning and elective credits through a work study program to complete their graduation requirements. - Students will be high school age, and on an IEP. -Students and parents will sign a contract regarding appropriate work habits and behaviors in the program, volunteer sites and future work sites. -Students could be Medina City School or surrounding districts -IEP team and Program Team will determine who is eligible for program. -Students will also receive social-emotional groups to develop skills necessary to function in the school, community and home settings.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. - If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

Students who participate in this program are students who are at risk of dropping out of school, thereby potentially decreasing self-esteem and ability to gain an income. By engaging them in an innovative program, Evolve Academy will give them skills that enable them to obtain three goals: 1) a high school diploma; 2) career readiness skills that will aid them in searching for employment; 3) increased self-worth. These all increase student achievement as measured on a district and economic level.

**C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown**

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

a. Enter a project budget

b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

1. Financial documentation a. Project Budget: o JOG School-Based Specialist: \$1650/student x 20 = \$33000 o Technology - 20 iPads + Apple Learning Cart \$10289 \$43289 b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template - expected changes to five-year forecast N/A c. Explain why subsection b may not be applicable. This school does not utilize general funds to run as it is a separate entity so it does not rely on the 5 year forecast.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

170,323.00 \* Total project cost

\* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RttT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

The overall budget is substantially higher than the amount requested for the grant because the intervention specialist, the mental health specialist and ? of the administrator's salary and benefits (\$127,034) are currently paid by the tuition paid by the districts of residence of the students served. We are requesting additional funding (\$43289) for JOG staff and technology to provide to the additional services needed to better meet the needs of our students.

15. What **new/recurring costs** of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

33,000.00 \* Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

\* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Cost of JOG School-Based Specialist will be subsidized with Local Match funding through foundations and other local initiatives to reduce and/or eliminate this expense moving forward starting in year two of the project. 25% Match year 2, 50% match year 3.

16. Are there **expected savings** that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?

0.00 \* Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

\* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.)

student, community and government in the long run as the students becomes productive, taxpaying members of society. Our local and state economies are dependent upon the availability of a trained workforce: A July 4, 2011 article in the Akron Beacon Journal stated that "Ohio will struggle to find skilled workers to fill NEW jobs over the next decade, a projection that is in line with Ohio universities' expectations that the number of high school graduates will fall." JOG is engaging or reengaging disadvantaged youth in their schooling and preparing them for our workforce. Investing in JOG Our Way makes economic sense: The Ohio Department of Education reports that dropouts face an estimated \$260,000 in lost wages over their lifetime. Furthermore, taxpayers spend between \$350 and \$400 million over the course of dropouts' lifetimes in Medicaid and expenditures for uninsured care. JOG our Way is a cost-effective way to develop our future workforce and reap a substantial ongoing return on investment in our youth. Ohio's 2012 budget reflects \$455 million in funding cuts to local governments, leaving public school districts. The services of JOG our Way are needed now, more than ever.

\*\*\*Nationwide, about seven thousand students drop out every school day. This statistic may not have been noticed fifty years ago, but the era during which a high school dropout could earn a living wage has ended in the United States. By dropping out, these individuals significantly diminish their chances to secure a good job and a promising future. Moreover, each class of dropouts is responsible for substantial financial and social costs to their communities, states and country in which they live." Source: Alliance for Excellent Education

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

Evolve Academy is currently a self-sustaining program serving grades 1-12. We rely on tuition from the districts of residence for funding. In order to supplement the additional programming for Career Readiness for the high school students we will ask area businesses to partner with us to provide scholarships for our students, in return we will provide community service and / or student interns.

#### D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of this project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could derail your concept or timeline for implementation and your plan to proactively mitigate such barriers. In addition, the narrative should list the stakeholders that will be engaged during that stage of the project and describe the communication that occurred as the application was developed.

Describe the ongoing communication plan with the stakeholders as the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational personnel in the affected entities.)

##### \* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 9/16/13 - 10/25/13

##### \* Narrative explanation

Analyze Evolve's program data and decide on areas of potential program development and improvement. Conduct research into outcomes of potential best practices programs and current gaps within the community. After researching and discussing with teachers and work study coordinators, it was discovered that there was a need for services for special education high school students, who are at risk of dropping out of school. The programs that were found successful in helping these students stay in school and graduate were alternative schools that focused on social-emotional skills and made students feel that they belonged. And that helped student develop work skills and habits that would prepare them for life. Evolve had the alternative school, the missing component was the career training. Last year, Jobs for Ohio's Graduates did some Core Competency Training in our high school classroom and our students enjoyed what they offered. JOG/JAG's Program has a strong reputation across the country. I meet with Ron Whitmer, Program Coordinator about my idea. The idea matched with JOG's philosophy. He talked to his Executive Director, Chris Canova, who has helped complete this grant. I am meeting next week with United Way about possible community service / volunteer opportunities within their agencies. They have just begun a community impact program that they feel will match well with this philosophy also.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/20/14

##### \* Narrative explanation

At the start of the second semester of this school year, we would like to begin implementing this program. Prior to this I will be letting the districts we serve know about the improvement of our high school services. We will have a meeting with our high school students and their parents to discuss the program, including expectations while in the program. All participants and their parents will be expected to sign a contract acknowledging their understanding of those expectations. JOG's Core Competencies curriculum is ready for classroom instruction. The high school intervention specialist may need a little more planning time to fully integrate into a project-based learning program. Progress in both programs will be monitored weekly and students and parents will be given weekly updates. During this time, JOG staff and Evolve staff will be making connections with area businesses to establish relationships. These relationships will be for possible speakers in the classroom, possible community service opportunities, and possible job placements for the students. Community linkage is an essential component of the success of this program. Within the first nine weeks we should be able to start community service projects. We will use Medina City Schools bus transportation for activities that are too far to walk to. By the end of the semester, students can start looking for summer employment. They will be able to receive leads, assistance and feedback regarding applications and workplace options.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/16/15

##### \* Narrative explanation

There will be 2 evaluations, one on 5/30/2014 and the second one final evaluation on 1/16/2015. The first evaluation will be at the end of the first semester of programming. This will give us the opportunity to analyze information and see what is working well and what we need to adjust or do different. We will base this on feedback from the students, parents, businesses, school and staff who have participated in/ or been in contact with the program. The second evaluation will look more in-depth at the full year of programming and the impact Evolve's Career Readiness Program has had on student achievement. Have students learned the core competency skills? Have they improved their academic standing - earned credit towards graduation? Past their OGT's? Do they have a job or at least have a portfolio with a resume, etc.?

19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

The majority of the high school programming will change dramatically for students who are eligible for this type of program. Instruction will move from full day individualized direct or independent instruction to ? day project-based learning combined with ? career readiness training. Teachers and staff will be taking on new responsibilities to better meet the educational, social and emotional needs of our students. We will be bringing in new staff to help facilitate the career readiness training and help build links into the community. The teachers and staff are also going to need to do community outreach to

build rapport within the community in order to ensure success for the students and the program.

**E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication**

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

Statistics show that young adults with a bachelor's degree or higher earned an average of \$24,797 in 2007, which was three times higher than what a high school dropout earned (Center for Labor and Market Studies, 2009). Knowing that Medina has a rising number of students dropping out of school is alarming. Medina also has JOG located right in our community. JOG/JAG has been in existence since 1987 and has been working with at risk youth to prevent dropout. They have a 90% graduation rate over their 30 years. JAG and their Core Competencies are recognized as best practices by the US Department of Education (2008). Evolve, formerly known as CFIT has been around since 1992, and has served 300 plus students in three classrooms in the past 10 years. We help most students look at life in a different, more positive way and give them skills to move forward and transition them back to their home school when they are ready. Less than 4% of those students have returned to Evolve. There is that percentage of disengaged youth that need a different approach, and we need to meet them where they are. According to the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth programs across the country have experienced success with work-based learning opportunities. Students are gaining 'soft skills' that employers are looking for. It is increasing their knowledge of occupational skills and job settings. They are establishing connections and a work history and they are better able to make informed career choices. The benefit in school is that they are becoming more engaged, their attendance is increasing, they have less behavior problems, therefore it decreases dropout rates. In the long run these students are receiving higher paid jobs than peers who did not attend a similar program.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

Having staff designated to train students in career readiness skills, develop relationships with community businesses for community service projects and work experience.

23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

Evolve Academy Career Readiness Program's goal is to increase the number of students who successfully complete the program and graduate high school. The second factor is that each student will either enter post-secondary education or be gainfully employed after graduation.

24. What are the specific benchmarks related to the fund goals identified in question 9 that the project aims to achieve in five years? Include any other anticipated outcomes of the project that you hope to achieve that may not be easily benchmarked.

1) Evolve Academy will decrease the number of students who withdrawal from school from 27% to less than 10% within the next 5 years. 2) 80% of Students who complete the Career Readiness Program will be employed or pursue post-secondary education within 12 months of graduation.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

\* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program's progress).

\* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

Through the Jobs for Ohio's Graduates electronic Data Management System (eNDMS) real time reporting of competency attainment and instruction, improvement of academic and work readiness skills; monitoring of academic progress reports that include attendance, behavior, barrier modification and removal; work experience and job status are available and reviewed consistently and routinely.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter "I Accept" and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today's date.

"I Accept" Peg Hufnagel/Director of Evolve Academy Evolve Academy, Medina City Schools 10/24/2013