

# Grants Available: Chamber's Ready Indiana to Assist Schools, Employers and Students

Making sure young people are ready for college or a career after completing their secondary education should be a top priority for all. The Indiana Chamber Foundation, through its Ready Indiana program, is one of the resources identified in the Lilly Endowment's Comprehensive Counseling Initiative (a five-year, up to \$30 million effort) to help schools develop counseling programs to guide college and career readiness.

The Foundation has conducted a series of studies over the past three years to identify best practices and innovative school counseling models. Education-employer connections are one of the keys to success, with businesses a valuable partner. Non-competitive planning grants (applications are due December 15) are available for public school corporations and charter schools to utilize Ready Indiana resources to prepare for competitive implementation grants (May 19, 2017 application deadline) that could be as high as \$100 per student.

"Indiana Chamber Foundation research has identified best practices to assist school counselors with meeting the college and career readiness needs of their students," says Shelley Huffman, Indiana Chamber/Ready Indiana Director of College and Career

Readiness. "We can help schools, and their business partners, with taking advantage of these models of success and crafting their grant proposals in order to best implement them."

Indiana's current school counseling challenges are part of a larger landscape of lagging educational attainment and economic prosperity, according to the Lilly Endowment. Too many Indiana students face limited earning potential and weak prospects for satisfying careers, which jeopardizes long-term quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

The Chamber's *Indiana Vision 2025* plan calls for at least 90% of Indiana students who graduate from high school being ready for college and/or career training. With the Endowment's Comprehensive Counseling Initiative, talented and dedicated education professionals in place and employers prepared to play an active role in meeting future workforce needs, now is the time to work toward that goal and beyond.

The Indiana Youth Institute and the Center of Excellence in Leadership and Learning (CELL) at the University of Indianapolis are additional technical resource partners in the Comprehensive Counseling Initiative.

Learn more about Indiana Chamber Foundation research at [www.readyindiana.org](http://www.readyindiana.org) and the Endowment initiative at [www.lillyendowment.org/ed\\_ci.html](http://www.lillyendowment.org/ed_ci.html).

Contact Huffman ([shuffman@indianachamber.com](mailto:shuffman@indianachamber.com) or 317-264-7548) to learn how the Indiana Chamber and Ready Indiana can be of assistance.

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