



2026–2027 IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program

Empowering Educators. Engaging Industry. Inspiring Students.

The Indiana Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC) at Purdue Polytechnic is now accepting proposals for its annual Micro-Grant Program. These grants—up to **\$2,000** per project—support **Indiana-based** education (K–16), industry, and community organizations in advancing **STEM innovation, career awareness, and industry-education collaboration.**

Program Purpose & Focus Areas

This program funds **new or enhanced projects** aligned with one or more of the following focus areas:

1. Expose Youth and Adults (K–16) to STEM

- **STEM Equipment/Curriculum:** Integrate hands-on manufacturing equipment and curriculum into the classroom.
- **Industry and Career Awareness:** Educate students on the importance of manufacturing and future career pathways.
- **Hands-On Experiences:** Offer real-world learning within manufacturing settings.
- **STEM Camps & Workshops:** Provide immersive experiences to build interest in STEM and industry.
- **STEM-Manufacturing Connections:** Link STEM learning directly to real-world manufacturing.
- **Field Trips & Tours:** Introduce students to careers through facility visits and tours.

2. Increase Public Awareness of Manufacturing

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Highlight the impact and opportunity of manufacturing careers in your community.

3. Launch Innovative Model Projects

- **Pioneering Initiatives:** Develop scalable, replicable models bridging education and industry.

4. Support Studios and Pathway Systems

- **Design & Innovation Studios:** Combine with pathways systems to support industry-aligned learning and career decision-making.

What Micro-Grant Funds Cannot Support

- General organizational or operational support (e.g., salaries, utilities)
- Political activity or campaigns

Eligibility

The program is open to **Indiana-based** applicants from:

Education (K–16):

- K–12 schools (public/private), CTE centers, and higher education institutions
- Individual educators or educator teams

Industry:

- STEM-sector businesses
- Manufacturing-related industry associations

Community Partners:

- Nonprofits focused on workforce, education, or community development
- Grassroots or local government initiatives aligned with program goals

Application Period

Opens: October 1, 2026

Closes: October 31, 2026 (or when funds are exhausted)

Note: This is a *first-come, first-served* opportunity. **No retroactive funding** will be considered.

Due to limited funding availability this year, the grant selection process will be more competitive. As a result, we anticipate awarding fewer grants overall and may not be able to extend multiple awards to as many educational institutions, industry partners, or community organizations as in prior years.

Apply Now: <https://bit.ly/4ykZPn6>



IN-MaC

Program Requirements

Award recipients must meet the following **reporting and visibility requirements**:

- **Photos:** Submit visuals of project activities and outcomes
- **Social Media:** Tag @PurduePolytechnicINMaC when posting funded project content
- **Branding:** Include Purdue IN-MaC logo on materials
 - **NOTE:** Please be sure to use the updated logo on all of your materials on social media and flyers. This is sent to you when you get the acceptance letter.
- **Acknowledgment:** Use "Project made possible by IN-MaC" on related content
- **Event Participation:** Attend the annual IN-MaC Micro-Grant Summit
 - **NOTE:** We are looking at holding the Micro-Grant Summit online as a brown-bag lunch this year. When you apply, you will be asked to mark the dates that work best with your schedule. The date with the majority available will be chosen. The official date will be chosen in November and announced.
- **Final Report Must Include:**
 - Project Description (≤400 words)
 - Project Outcome and Achievements
 - List of Partners/Participants
 - Project Benefits and Community Impact
 - Regional/County Reach
 - Total Youth and Adults Impacted
 - Keys to Success & Lessons Learned

Why It Matters

The IN-MaC Micro-Grant Program is a key tool in building **local workforce pipelines**, sparking **early STEM interest**, and cultivating **industry-education collaboration**. Your project can be the spark that shapes Indiana's next generation of innovators, makers, and leaders.

Program Lead & Contact

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