

**Full-Service Community Schools Program (FSCS)
Project Abstract FY 2023**

Applicant Name: Marian University

Project Title: City Connects Midwest: Reimagining Student Success in the Magic City

Absolute Priority the Project Addresses: (select all that apply) (Please note: You must select 1 or 2 and 3 or 4 or 5)

- Absolute Priority 1 – Title IA Schoolwide Program Eligibility
- Absolute Priority 2 – Title IA Schoolwide Eligibility and Rural Districts – Small and Rural or Rural and Low-Income
- Absolute Priority 3 – Capacity Building and Development Grants
- Absolute Priority 4 – Multi-Local Educational Agency Grants
- Absolute Priority 5 – FSCS State Scaling Grants

Competitive Preference and Invitational Priorities the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

- Competitive Preference Priority 1—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs
- Competitive Preference Priority 2—Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change
- Invitational Priority—Supporting Effective Transition Practices, Continuity of Services and Supports and Aligned Instruction for Students from Preschool and Other Early Childhood Settings into Kindergarten and from Kindergarten into the Early Grades (K–3).

Total number of local educational agencies (LEAs) to be served by the project: Two; the Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) and the 21st Century Charter Schools operated by GEO Academies (21CCS) in Gary, Indiana

Total number of schools to be served by the project: Eleven (11)

Total estimated number of students to be served by the project: 4,770 student

Brief description of the proposed project, including project activities: Marian University (MU) will implement the “City Connects Midwest: Midwest: Reimagining Student Success in the Magic City” Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) Program with Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) and the 21st Century Charter Schools operated by GEO Academies (21CCS) located in the Rust Belt region of Gary, Indiana. The MU FSCS consortium will conduct a capacity-building needs assessment, develop plans to implement integrated student support services and provide schoolwide supports and pipeline services using the evidence-based City Connects model.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: Each year of the project period, the MU City Connects Midwest Training and Technical Assistance Center will improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for Indiana children and families through capacity building and development services in collaboration with two FSCS-eligible schools by (1) conducting whole-school needs assessments with each FSCS in Year 1 to identify capacity areas (infrastructure, community partnerships, integrated student support structures,

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and professional development) that can be strengthened to improve student's academic success; (2) establishing and implementing a capacity-building plan, led by a collaborative leadership team withing each GCSC and 21CCS; (3) engaging at least 50 teachers, principals, and administrators in a professional learning community; and (4) partnering with external evaluators from Indiana University Bloomington Center for Evaluation and Education Policy to evaluate project performance. The MU FSCS consortium will improve educational outcomes for children in GCSC and 21CCS by (1) supporting schoolwide adoption of the City Connects model; (2) assessing every student every year (n=4,770) to identify their social/emotional, family, academic, and health support needs and establishing individual support plans; (2) providing integrated student support and pipeline services at each FSCS; (3) engaging at least 10% of parents/guardians at each school in project efforts; and (4) partnering with Be Strong Families, IN*Source, and Project Lead the Way to provide engagement resources, STEM curricula, and mental health professional development.

Proposed location(s) of implementation (e.g., city, town, county, State(s)): Gary, Indiana (City, State)

List all LEAs that will be partnering with this project, including rural designation under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program or the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program if applicable: Gary Community School Corporation (GCSC) and the 21st Century Charter Schools operated by GEO Academies (21CCS). Neither LEA is designated as eligible under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program or the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program.

List all non-LEA organizations partnering with this project: Boston College Center for Thriving Children, Indiana University Center Evaluation and Education Policy (CEEP), Be Strong Families, IN*Source, and Project Lead the Way.