

Welcome

Thank you for choosing Funding Compass.

SAMPLE REPORT — FICTIONAL ORGANIZATION. We're honored to help your organization identify funding opportunities that support your mission and long-term goals.

Your **Strategic Funding Roadmap™** has been developed specifically for your organization using our proprietary funding intelligence process. Rather than providing an overwhelming list of grants, this report is designed to identify the funding opportunities that best align with your mission, goals, location, and organizational capacity.

Our objective is simple:

To replace uncertainty with a clear, strategic path toward funding success.

Inside this report, you'll discover:

- An assessment of your organization's current funding position.
- Funding opportunities that best match your mission and project goals.
- Recommended funding partners that align with your organization's priorities.
- Strategic opportunities that may strengthen your long-term funding success.
- A practical 30-day action plan you can begin implementing immediately.

Because funding opportunities evolve over time, this report represents a strategic snapshot based on information available at the time it was prepared. We encourage you to use this roadmap as a planning tool while continuing to build relationships, strengthen your organization, and pursue well-aligned funding opportunities.

We hope this report provides greater clarity, increased confidence, and a practical roadmap for moving your organization forward.

Thank you for trusting Funding Compass.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

ORGANIZATIONS THAT PURSUE A FOCUSED FUNDING STRATEGY TYPICALLY ACHIEVE BETTER RESULTS THAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT CHASE EVERY AVAILABLE GRANT OPPORTUNITY.

Executive Brief

Funding Compass evaluated your organization using our Strategic Funding Intelligence™ methodology to identify funding opportunities that best align with your mission, organizational capacity, geographic location, and funding objectives.

Bright Futures Learning Center is well positioned to pursue a diversified funding strategy. Its mission addresses a clearly defined community need, the proposed expansion is specific and measurable, and the project aligns with education, youth development, STEM, workforce development, and community-impact priorities.

The strongest path is not a single large grant. Bright Futures should combine local and Indiana-based foundation opportunities with corporate giving and selected public funding while building the partnerships and documentation needed for larger opportunities over the next twelve months.

Our Recommendation

Begin with Indiana-based private foundations and the local community foundation, while simultaneously developing corporate STEM partnerships and monitoring state education opportunities. This approach offers the best combination of near-term probability, relationship-building value, and long-term funding potential.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

THE STRONGEST FUNDING STRATEGIES ARE BUILT ON ALIGNMENT—NOT VOLUME. ORGANIZATIONS THAT FOCUS ON THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES CONSISTENTLY OUTPERFORM THOSE THAT SIMPLY SUBMIT THE MOST APPLICATIONS.

Your Organization

Funding Compass reviewed your organization's mission, objectives, funding goals, and current needs to ensure our recommendations are based on your unique circumstances. The following information formed the foundation of our analysis.

Organization Specifics

Bright Futures Learning Center

Educational Nonprofit Organization

Anderson, Indiana

Provides affordable tutoring, mentoring, STEM enrichment, and college-readiness programming for underserved students in Madison County.

Funding Initiative

Current Challenge

Demand for after-school tutoring and STEM programming has exceeded the organization's current facility capacity and available staffing. Additional resources are needed to expand programming, increase student access, and meet growing community demand.

Proposed Project

Expand educational services by opening a second learning center and launching a mobile STEM laboratory that delivers hands-on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics experiences to elementary schools throughout Madison County.

Funding Goal

\$250,000

Desired Outcomes

- Open a second learning center within 12 months.
- Launch a mobile STEM laboratory serving elementary schools throughout Madison County.
- Increase annual student enrollment by approximately 150 students.
- Purchase educational technology and STEM equipment, hire two additional educators, and strengthen community partnerships.

Desired Funding Timeline

12 months, with early emphasis on local and regional opportunities while preparing for larger state and national funding.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

ORGANIZATIONS WITH CLEARLY DEFINED PROJECTS, MEASURABLE OUTCOMES, AND REALISTIC FUNDING GOALS ARE CONSISTENTLY MORE COMPETITIVE FOR GRANTS THAN ORGANIZATIONS WITH BROAD OR UNDEFINED FUNDING REQUESTS.

Funding Readiness Snapshot™

Funding Compass evaluated your organization across several key factors that influence funding success. While no organization is ever "perfectly ready," understanding your strengths and opportunities for improvement helps prioritize the actions that will have the greatest impact on future funding success.

Overall Assessment

Funding Readiness: High

Your overall readiness reflects the alignment between your mission, organizational capacity, project definition, and the types of funding opportunities available to you.

Strengths

- Strong mission with measurable community impact.
- Expansion project is specific, realistic, and scalable.
- Multiple funding sectors align with education, STEM, youth development, and workforce priorities.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Develop a detailed project budget separating facility, mobile STEM lab, equipment, staffing, and program costs.
- Strengthen letters of support and documented partnerships with schools, businesses, and community organizations.
- Maintain a calendar and tracking system for foundation, corporate, and public funding cycles.

Recommended Priority

Translate the strong project concept into a funder-ready package: concise project narrative, detailed budget, measurable outcomes, organizational documents, and partner support.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

FUNDING READINESS IS NOT ABOUT BEING PERFECT—IT'S ABOUT UNDERSTANDING WHERE YOU ARE TODAY AND TAKING DELIBERATE STEPS TO BECOME A STRONGER FUNDING CANDIDATE TOMORROW.

Opportunity Compass™

One of the biggest challenges organizations face is deciding **where to focus** their limited time and resources. Funding Compass evaluates multiple funding sectors and recommends the areas most likely to produce meaningful results based on your mission, project goals, geographic location, and organizational readiness.

Rather than encouraging you to pursue every available opportunity, we recommend concentrating your efforts where the probability of success is greatest.

Recommended Funding Direction

Funding Sector	Recommendation
Private Foundations	★★★★★ Exceptional Opportunity
Community Foundations	★★★★★ Exceptional Opportunity
Corporate Giving / STEM Programs	★★★★☆ Strong Opportunity
State Education Programs	★★★★☆ Strong Opportunity
National Foundations	★★★☆☆ Moderate Opportunity
Federal Programs	★★☆☆☆ Selective Opportunity

Recommended Strategy

Concentrate first on private and community foundations with strong Indiana and local alignment. Add corporate STEM and workforce-development partners as a second track, then pursue state and national opportunities as Bright Futures strengthens its project budget, partnerships, and documented outcomes.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATIONS DON'T APPLY FOR THE MOST GRANTS—THEY APPLY FOR THE RIGHT GRANTS. A FOCUSED STRATEGY ALMOST ALWAYS OUTPERFORMS A SCATTERED ONE.

Recommended Funding Partners

The organizations below represent the strongest funding partners identified through our research. Recommendations are based on mission alignment, geographic eligibility, funding priorities, award potential, and the likelihood of developing a successful long-term funding relationship.

Funding Compass recommends focusing first on organizations that closely align with your mission and project objectives before expanding to broader funding opportunities.

Recommended Funding Partner

Organization

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Funding Alignment

★★★★★ Exceptional Match

Why This Is a Strong Match

Lilly Endowment has a long history of supporting education, youth development, community enrichment, and initiatives that strengthen Indiana communities. Bright Futures' educational mission, local impact, and proposed expansion fit those broad areas of alignment.

The proposed second learning center and mobile STEM laboratory create a clear, scalable project with measurable student outcomes. A well-developed request would emphasize community need, educational access, partnerships, and the long-term impact of expanded programming.

Potential Funding Uses

- Mobile STEM laboratory and STEM equipment
- Educational program expansion and technology
- Community partnerships and student-access initiatives

Estimated Award Potential

High potential; specific award size depends on the applicable initiative and current guidelines.

Website

<https://admin.aws.fhlbi.com/services/community-programs/small-business-grants/> Current program details should be verified directly with the funder before application.

Recommended Next Step

Review Lilly Endowment's current education and community-development initiatives and identify the program area that most closely aligns with the proposed expansion. Build the project narrative and community partnerships before pursuing a formal request.

Priority

High — Relationship and program-fit research should begin early.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

THE STRONGEST FUNDING RELATIONSHIPS BEGIN LONG BEFORE AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED. ORGANIZATIONS THAT INVEST TIME IN UNDERSTANDING A FUNDER'S PRIORITIES AND BUILDING GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS OFTEN ACHIEVE BETTER LONG-TERM RESULTS THAN ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSED SOLELY ON COMPLETING APPLICATIONS.

Strategic Opportunities

This section highlights funding avenues that are often overlooked but may provide meaningful support for your organization. While these opportunities may not be your highest priority, they can strengthen a diversified funding strategy, build valuable community relationships, and create additional sources of financial support.

Many organizations focus exclusively on large grantmakers. In our experience, combining several well-matched opportunities often produces better long-term results than relying on a single major award.

Opportunity 1

Organization

Community Foundation of Madison County

Why It's Worth Exploring

As the local community foundation, this organization is closely connected to projects that improve quality of life in Madison County. Bright Futures' educational mission and direct local impact make it a natural relationship to explore.

The second learning center and mobile STEM laboratory offer visible, community-based outcomes that can be explained through student access, educational achievement, and expanded local programming.

Local foundation relationships can also strengthen future applications by creating community credibility and potential partnership opportunities.

Potential Uses

- Program expansion, classroom equipment, and technology
- Student access, scholarships, and locally focused STEM programming

Website

<https://www.in.gov/doe/eoq/esa/> Current grant cycles and eligibility should be verified directly with the foundation.

Recommended Next Step

Schedule an introductory conversation with foundation staff, confirm current priorities and grant cycles, and discuss which portion of the expansion project offers the strongest local fit.

Opportunity 2

Organization

Duke Energy Foundation

Why It's Worth Exploring

The Duke Energy Foundation is worth exploring because corporate giving programs can align well with STEM education, workforce development, and community-strengthening initiatives. Bright Futures' mobile STEM laboratory creates a concrete project around hands-on learning and future career exposure.

This opportunity is especially useful as part of a diversified strategy because corporate support may complement foundation funding for equipment, technology, programming, and community partnerships. Current geographic eligibility and program priorities should be confirmed before pursuing a request.

A strong approach would connect the STEM laboratory to measurable student participation, school partnerships, and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers.

Potential Uses

- Mobile STEM laboratory, STEM equipment, and educational technology
- STEM programming, workforce exposure, and community partnerships

Website

<https://www.indianalearns.org/learning-partners/>Current giving priorities and eligibility should be verified directly with the foundation.

Recommended Next Step

Review current education, STEM, workforce-development, and community-investment priorities. Confirm geographic eligibility, then frame the mobile STEM laboratory around measurable student impact and local partnerships.

Opportunity 3

Organization

Indiana Department of Education

Why It's Worth Exploring

State education programs may provide opportunities related to student achievement, educational innovation, literacy, STEM initiatives, or expanded student services when eligible programs are open.

Bright Futures' expansion could align with selected public funding opportunities, but program availability, applicant eligibility, partnership requirements, and allowable uses can vary significantly. This should be treated as a strategic monitoring opportunity rather than assumed funding.

Potential Uses

- STEM curriculum and educational programming
- Student services and educational technology
- Training or program expansion when allowed by a specific grant

Website

<https://iedc.in.gov/indiana-advantages/investments/skills-enhancement-fund-sef/overview>Current opportunities and requirements should be verified through official Indiana education funding resources.

Recommended Next Step

Monitor current Indiana Department of Education funding announcements and evaluate each opportunity for nonprofit eligibility, project fit, required partnerships, allowable expenses, and application timing before investing significant effort.

Status

Strategic Opportunity — Program Availability and Eligibility Verification Required

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

DIVERSIFIED FUNDING STRATEGIES ARE OFTEN BUILT BY COMBINING SEVERAL WELL-MATCHED OPPORTUNITIES RATHER THAN DEPENDING ON A SINGLE LARGE GRANT. SMALLER AWARDS CAN CREATE MOMENTUM, STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND IMPROVE COMPETITIVENESS FOR FUTURE FUNDING.

30-Day Funding Action Plan

The first 30 days should focus on converting Bright Futures' expansion concept into a funder-ready project while beginning relationships with the highest-priority local and Indiana funding partners.

Week 1 — Get Funding-Ready

Finalize the project scope and build a detailed budget for the second learning center and mobile STEM laboratory. Assemble financial statements, nonprofit documentation, leadership information, measurable outcomes, and a concise project summary.

Week 2 — Pursue the Best Near-Term Opportunity

Contact the Community Foundation of Madison County and begin research on the best-fit Lilly Endowment pathway. Prepare a short introduction that explains the community need, expansion plan, funding goal, and expected student impact.

Week 3 — Evaluate Funded-Service Opportunities

Develop the corporate/STEM track. Review Duke Energy Foundation priorities, identify other local business partners, and request letters of support or partnership commitments from schools and community organizations.

Week 4 — Build the Longer-Term Funding Pipeline

Create a 12-month funding calendar. Add state education opportunities and selected national prospects, assign next actions, and begin preparing the strongest near-term applications rather than chasing every open grant.

Expected 30-Day Outcome

By the end of 30 days, Bright Futures should have a funder-ready project package, active conversations with priority local partners, a stronger partnership story, and a focused 12-month funding pipeline.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

ORGANIZATIONS THAT FOLLOW A CONSISTENT FUNDING PROCESS TYPICALLY ACHIEVE BETTER LONG-TERM RESULTS THAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT APPLY ONLY WHEN THEY URGENTLY NEED FUNDING. MOMENTUM IS ONE OF YOUR GREATEST COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES.

Your Path Forward for Funding

Final Thoughts

Thank you for choosing Funding Compass.

Bright Futures Learning Center has a compelling expansion concept built around a clear community need and measurable educational outcomes.

The strongest strategy is to begin locally and regionally, build relationships and early momentum, and use that foundation to pursue larger corporate, state, and national opportunities over time.

Funding opportunities and program requirements change. Before applying, verify current eligibility, deadlines, award ranges, and allowable uses directly with each funding source.

This sample uses a fictional organization to demonstrate the type of analysis and strategic guidance included in a Funding Compass Strategic Funding Roadmap™.

FUNDING COMPASS INSIGHT

THE STRONGEST ORGANIZATIONS TREAT FUNDING AS AN ONGOING STRATEGY RATHER THAN A SERIES OF INDIVIDUAL GRANT APPLICATIONS. LONG-TERM SUCCESS IS BUILT THROUGH PREPARATION, RELATIONSHIPS, AND CONSISTENT EXECUTION.

Funding Compass™

Helping organizations stop searching and start finding.

www.FundingCompassHQ.com