



For Immediate Release

Local Nonprofit Collective Wins \$1 Million U.S. National Science Foundation Grant to Support Black Students with Accessing Tech Careers

Students to Learn More About Careers in AI, Data through Project Backed by Community Funding Accelerator

[Jacksonville, FL, July 29, 2024] MyVillage Project, a local collective of Black-led grassroots organizations, was awarded nearly \$1 million from the U.S. [National Science Foundation announced](#) today. The Community Funding Accelerator contributed its expertise to the organization's winning federal grant proposal.

The National Science Foundation's Experiential Learning for Emerging and Novel Technologies (ExLENT) program supports inclusive opportunities for diverse students in up-and-coming fields, enabling them to tackle the nation's most pressing technological and societal challenges.

With ExLENT funding, [MyVillage Project](#) will design and pilot an immersive career development after school program for high school students to obtain micro-credentials within tech fields, expanding their career opportunities post-graduation. Participating students will build a foundation of technical and entrepreneurial skills in AI, machine learning, digital twinning, data science, spatial computing, and virtual/augmented reality. The more than 800 hours of mentoring and instruction that the MyVillage Project coalition will provide are intended to help more Black students access careers in emerging information- and data-oriented technologies.

The Community Funding Accelerator provided grant writing support for MyVillage Project's proposal, which marked its first time navigating the federal grant application process. Support included grant writing, co-leading grant strategy, connecting with agency and sector experts, program design guidance, partnership recruitment, and refining the model's sustainability and scalability.

"Coalitions like MyVillage Project know a lot about meeting communities' needs but have limited experience in accessing federal funding to support their work," said Ronnie King,

MyVillage Project's co-founder. "The Community Funding Accelerator was instrumental in helping us capitalize on previously unexplored funding opportunities. The team not only knows the federal grant process, but, most importantly, they understand our community's desired outcomes."

Learn more about CFA's collaboration with MyVillage Project in our recent [video](#).

About Community Funding Accelerator

[The Community Funding Accelerator](#) (CFA) helps underserved communities [access competitive federal grants](#). With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA pilot is led by [Delivery Associates](#), a public sector consulting firm.

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