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## MACC IDEA AWARD GRANTS

Mid America Camping Conference & Mid America Y Camping Inc.  
2024 Request For Proposal

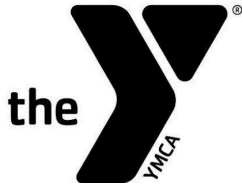
**Eligibility:** Any YMCA operating a Day or Overnight Camp. Additional consideration or preference may be given to camps/Ys that have actively participated in MACC previously.

**Effective Dates:** February 2024 to December 2024 - Implementation of the request should be completed within the grant calendar year.

**Award Description:** Mid America Y Camping, Inc. (MAYCI) Board will be recognizing individuals and camps who are pioneering innovation in service in camping through annual MACC Idea Award Grants! *Encouraging internal creativity* is imperative to moving the camping industry forward, and thus has been identified as a priority. The goal of this grantmaking process is to recognize and reward leaders and teams at all levels of camping who are finding new solutions to the challenges our communities face.

MACC Idea Award Grants will be separated into four categories – *Innovation, General Operating Needs, Staff Investment, and Miscellaneous.*

- *Innovation* - Seed funding to launch a new (or new to you) program, process or approach.
- *General Operating Needs* - Budget relief to an existing budgeted program or process.
- *Staff Investment* - Funding for staff to receive training that will benefit the camp long term. For example, sending staff to become a Day Camp Director Training Instructor. (This can not include travel or attendance to MACC. There is a scholarship process separate for that which rolls out in the fall)
- *Misc.* - Does your idea or need not fall directly into one of the above categories? This category is for you!



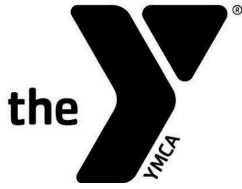
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**MACC Idea Award Grant Innovation Proposal Guidelines:** A camp may apply to receive new seed funding for an innovative opportunity using the following criteria:

- An innovative opportunity can be a program, process, approach, or tool - we are accepting proposals in any of these areas.
- Many of the best ideas are those that others have had first. Your idea does not have to be brand new, it can be new to you!
- Innovation can be evolutionary or revolutionary – it is not always a radical break from a previous approach, so feel free to apply for incremental innovations.
- Innovation is inherently risky, so even not yet successful ventures can be proposed.
- Innovation is ultimately in service to community outcomes and impact, but even small changes in approach or process can end up having an impact on the community you serve.
- Innovation often comes from the grass roots, so any staff member of any level is encouraged to apply.
- The awarded dollars must be spent by December 31 of the calendar year.

**MACC Idea Award Grant General Operating Proposal Guidelines:** An individual or camp may apply to receive general operating support for their existing programs, services, or processes using the following criteria:

- The intention is for the awardee to use grant funding to improve a currently operating program or service. For example, the purchase of replacement sports equipment which may be difficult to get approval for in the operating budget.
- The awarded dollars must be spent by December 31 of the calendar year.



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**MACC Idea Award Grant Staff Investment Proposal Guidelines:** An individual or camp may apply to receive funding to invest in their most valuable resource, staff:

- We know that getting budgeted dollars for staff development is very difficult. We also know it shouldn't be. This grant award is meant to supplement the funds needed to invest in your staff through necessary training and certification.
- Funds do not need to be used for YMCA offered training, although they can be. Staff investment dollars can be used for training and certifications outside of the Y but still relevant to camp. (Red Cross, Ropes Training, Etc.)
- In an effort to stretch this award as far as possible, showing how the investment you are applying for will pay endless dividends for your camp will be valuable. For instance, getting a staff certified as an LGI may save you costs on lifeguard or CPR/FA training in the future.
- This cannot be used to fund expenses related to attending the MACC conference. Financial Assistance for MACC is available in the Fall.
- The awarded dollars must be spent by December 31 of the calendar year.

**MACC Idea Award Grant MISC Proposal Guidelines:** Should your request not fit into one of the above categories, please feel free to apply under the Misc. category.

- The awarded dollars must be spent by December 31 of the calendar year.

Process for MACC Idea Award Grant Nominations:

1. Please submit your proposal through the Google form provided.
2. No more than two (2) MACC Idea applications can be submitted from each Camp location.
3. Applications will be accepted until March 8th, 2024. Supervisor approval is required before submitting the application.
4. The MACC Idea Awards Grant review committee will determine eligibility of all applications before beginning the review process.
5. Awardees must submit a Project Completion Summary by December 31, 2024 and may be invited to present their project at the next Mid America Camping Conference. Project Completion Summary form will be sent in the fall.
6. Applicants will be alerted of their funding status by March 29th, 2024.
7. Awarded proposals will receive funding within one month following notification.
8. Awarded proposals will require the acceptance of funds by the Executive Director of the camp location.



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9. All funds dedicated to the project described are unrestricted within the scope of the awarded project. Should the proposal become out of reach, awardees should reach out to the MACC Ideas Award Grant committee to discuss options.

Mid America YMCA Camping, INC (MAYCI): MAYCI is dedicated to the mission and purpose of advancing the movement of YMCA Camping, offering the annual Mid America Camp Conference, and through other efforts that support the sustainability of YMCA Camping. We are fortunate to offer funding from the past success of World Camp, MAYCI, and the MACC Conference. Questions about the grant making process can be sent to [ymcamayci@gmail.com](mailto:ymcamayci@gmail.com).