Opportunity: Library Innovation Awards

Grant Program Goal: To generate and support innovative and forward-thinking ideas that positively impact the library’s community.

Outcomes:
- Libraries will showcase their creativity and innovation.
- Knowledge-sharing among libraries.
- Grantees will define specific outcomes for their individual idea submissions.

Eligibility: Grant is open to NEKLS member academic, public and school libraries.

Grant Amount: Maximum award is $5,000; up to $15,000 in funds will be awarded.

Application Due Date: September 22, 2023

Awarded funds will be spent by March 1, 2024.

Criteria:
- Innovative idea submission description will be between 250 words and 500 words,
- Cite resources that support the proposed innovation,
- Ideas that include partnering with targeted organizations are encouraged,
- Ideas do not need to be technology based,
- Distributed funds will be used to support the awarded idea,
- The awarded libraries agree to their submissions being licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution public license and that their idea submission may be displayed/published,
- Grantees agree to be interviewed about their submission for the NEKLS podcast.

Application: https://forms.gle/DAb8wrWNjZgMw7BfA

Applicants will provide the following:
- A statement of the needs to be addressed and the targeted population to be served (use application form),
- A description of how the idea submission will address the identified need (use application form),
- A statement on how the effectiveness of your proposed innovative idea, if implemented, will be evaluated (use application form),
- Budget – this may be the budget for the initial steps of a project (send via email to Megan Mentzer at mmentzer@nekls.org),
- A timeline for project activities (send via email to Megan Mentzer at mmentzer@nekls.org).
Reporting: Recipient libraries will complete a brief grant report providing a description of the project, how staff was involved in carrying out the project activities, and the impact it had on project participants. **NEKLS will provide recipients with a link for reporting at a later date.**

Resources: To apply for this award all that is required is an idea to improve the library, but only the most innovative and forward-thinking ideas will be awarded funding. Innovation often requires looking to other fields of study for ideation; resources may come from many different sources.

Questions? Contact Dan Alexander at dalexander@nekls.org or 785-838-4090.