

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*).

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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.