

Opportunity: Focus Grant

Grant Program Goal: To make significant improvements to library facilities or services that support the library being essential to the community.

Outcomes:

- ✓ Libraries will transform an aspect of their facilities or services.
- ✓ Grantees will define specific outcomes for their proposals.

Eligibility: Grant is open to NEKLS member public libraries.

Grant Amount: Minimum grant award is \$5,000, and maximum award is \$25,000; up to \$50,000 in NEKLS funds will be awarded.

Application Due Date: **September 30, 2024**

Awarded funds will be distributed by October 31, 2024, and must be spent by May 1, 2025.

Criteria:

- ✓ Proposals must be one specific and cohesive project, as opposed to a combination of several unrelated projects.
- ✓ Up to 25% of total grant funds may be used for the library's collection, but only when supporting the project as a whole.
- ✓ Funds may not subsidize staff compensation, but can be used to pay for third-party contractors, facilitators, presenters, etc.
- ✓ Proposals that include partnering with organizations are encouraged.

Application Form: <https://forms.gle/udnnaYdHqw2vAjnG7>

Applicants will provide the following by September 30, 2024:

On Application Form

- A statement of the needs to be addressed and the targeted population to be served
- A description of how the idea submission will address the identified need
- A statement on how the effectiveness of your proposal will be evaluated

Emailed to Dan Alexander (dalexander@nekls.org)

- Project budget
- Timeline for project activities

Budget: Requested funds must be between \$5,000 and \$25,000 dollars. Applicants should document any additional revenue that will be used to fund the project.

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Reporting: Recipient libraries will complete a grant report providing a description of the project, how staff was involved in carrying out the project activities, and the impact it had on the community. ***NEKLS will provide recipients with a link for reporting at a later date.***

Resources: Because of the maximum dollar amount, this grant opportunity is expected to be highly competitive. Winning grant proposals will focus on transforming a specific aspect of the library's facilities or services. Libraries are encouraged to review long range goals and plans for proposed grant outcomes. NEKLS consultants are available to help throughout the grant process.

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