

Opportunity: Library Innovation Award

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 proposals.

Eligibility: Grant is open to NEKLS member public libraries.

Grant Amount: Maximum award is \$5,000; up to NEKLS \$25,000 in funds will be awarded.

Application Due Date: **September 1, 2024**

Awarded funds will be distributed by October 31, 2024, and must be spent by March 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/d9eZemUCAtbeJ9m29>

Applicants will provide the following by September 1, 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

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Budget: Grant funds may be used for the entirety of a project or the initial steps towards project completion. Applicants should document any additional revenue that will be used to fund the project.

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. NEKLS consultants are available to help throughout the grant process.

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