Opportunity: Mental Wellness Grant

Grant Program Goal: To enhance the well-being of library patrons and/or staff by implementing targeted mental wellness initiatives and resources within the community.

Outcomes:
- Libraries will improve mental wellness for staff and/or community members.
- 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 $20,000 in NEKLS funds will be awarded.

Application Due Date: May 31, 2024

Awarded funds will be distributed by June 30, 2024, and must be spent by December 31, 2024.

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/Tx8RMThjAS7aisMN6

Applicants will provide the following by May 31, 2024:
- On Application Form
  - A statement of the mental wellness needs to be addressed and the targeted population to be served (use application form),
  - A description of how the planned project will address the identified need
  - A statement on how the effectiveness of your proposal will be evaluated
  - Project budget
  - Timeline for project activities

Emailed to Dan Alexander (dalexander@nekls.org)

Budget: Requested funds must be $5,000 or below. 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:** Proposals may be informed by local, regional, or national agencies and publications. Also see the “Mental Wellness” module available at nekls.org, click on the menu: “Topics in Librarianship”. NEKLS consultants are available to help throughout the grant process.

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