



Library Improvement and Innovation Grant Guidelines

The Library Improvement and Innovation Grant funds are to be used in the areas of **Workforce & Economic Development, Information Technology, and/or Reading Proficiency & Lifelong Learning.**

Workforce & Economic Development: Wisconsin public libraries provide valuable resources and services which support residents seeking to improve their skills, change careers, and apply for jobs; as well as resources that remote workers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and start-ups need for 21st century business development. Libraries are an important resource for employers seeking candidates, hosting job fairs and providing free meeting spaces. Examples of projects in this area would allow libraries to offer resume and interview coaching, technology training, and financial/business plan development.

Information Technology: Wisconsin public libraries are key strategic partners in the delivery of electronic access and resources to Wisconsin residents. Many families cannot afford internet access at home. With funds libraries could improve internet access including wireless beyond the library building and Wi-Fi hotspots for home use. Grant funds could also be used for digitization services, coding initiatives, in-person technology training, information literacy, and expanding digital content.

Reading Proficiency and Lifelong Learning: Public libraries serve residents in all stages of life, and grant funds could address age-specific needs. Early literacy programs help young brains develop and prepare kids for school. Increasing library resources, learning opportunities, and summer reading programs could boost reading proficiency and prevent the “summer slide” among elementary school students. STEM programs for youth encourage students to consider science, technology, and engineering careers. Creative learning labs provide opportunities for all ages to learn robotics, 3D modeling, sewing, website design, film editing and more. Libraries, in partnership with agencies such as the Alzheimer’s Association, offer memory cafes to provide social networks and help preserve cognitive function for the state’s growing population of seniors.

Collaboration with other libraries and/or community partners is encouraged, but not necessary.

This grant is a one-time only grant. Sustainability for any projects started with grant funding should be considered and accounted for in the recipient library’s budget.

Upon completion of the grant project, recipients must give a brief report to the NFLS Advisory Committee of Librarians and work with NFLS on a short publicity presentation.

If your grant request amount is \$5,000 or more, pre-approval by the NFLS Director is required. Please submit a brief grant summary (two to three paragraphs) for pre-approval by **May 31, 2024, to Hannah Good Zima at hzima@nflsoffice.org.**

To arrange a pre-application review by a Grant Committee member, please contact Hannah Good Zima at hzima@nflsoffice.org by **June 7, 2024**.

Application Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2024