

Gary D. Bixhorn Innovative Measures Mini-Grant Program

Background

The backbone of Eastern Suffolk BOCES is the caring, dedicated, hard-working staff. The work of the staff enables the Agency to provide highly specialized instructional services to students enrolled in our special education and CTE programs and offer a wide array of educational support, administrative support, and Regional Information Center (RIC) services to school districts across Long Island.

Over the past several years, the Gary D. Bixhorn Mini-Grant Program has made grants available to fund innovative instructional practices proposed by ESBOCES teaching staff. These grants allowed staff members with program improvement ideas to obtain the funding necessary to introduce those ideas. All decisions related to the awarding of these grants were within the purview of the Central Shared Decision Making (CSDM) Committee.



Based upon the experience of the past several years, the program is being expanded to make funding available to all full-time staff members involved in all ESBOCES programs and services. Any staff member with an innovative idea that will result in improved services or enhanced operational efficiency that is not funded through the budget process may apply for mini-grant funding in the amount of \$500 to \$2,500 (total of all awards not to exceed \$3,000). The application process and timeline for applying, established by the CSDM Committee, will be shared annually with staff. Grant award decisions will remain within the purview of the CSDM Committee.

Structure

The Gary D. Bixhorn Innovative Measures Mini-Grant Program is designed to provide funding to ESBOCES employees for implementation of projects for which funding is not available through normal Agency channels. Grant opportunities in the prescribed form, for eligible applicants, must be submitted in accordance with

established procedures.

Applications will be reviewed and grants will be awarded by a Subcommittee comprised of members of the ESBOCES Central Shared Decision Making Committee. The decisions of the Subcommittee are final. Please note that awarded funds should be expended in the Fall.

Criteria

- Support the introduction of innovative measures that will result in improved student outcomes or enhanced operational efficiency AND
- Support the innovative use of technology OR
- Promote cooperation with other educational institutions, government agencies, or community organizations OR
- Replicate a proven innovative measure that has been successfully introduced in another organization OR
- Support the introduction of an innovative measure created by the applicant(s)

Support

The Gary D. Bixhorn Innovative Measures Mini-Grant Program is funded through donations.

Application

The online application process must be utilized. The application must:

- clearly describe the project;
- include measurable goals and/or objectives that align with the Agency Strategic Plan and/or the Framework for 21st Century Learning;
- include an implementation schedule;
- include an evaluative methodology; and
- include a detailed budget.



Eligibility

All full-time ESBOCES staff members may apply as individuals or in teams for the Gary D. Bixhorn Innovative Measures Mini-Grant.