



DeKalb County Community Foundation

2600 DeKalb Ave., Suite J Sycamore, IL 60178

(815) 748-5383 (815) 748-5873 fax

www.dekalbcountyfoundation.org

2011 Soft Skill Enhancement Grant Guidelines & Application Applications Due to the DCCF by 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2012

Introduction:

“Soft skills” are the social/personal skills needed to communicate and relate with others. They are growing in importance in today’s high performance work and higher education environments. Soft skills are important tools for building solid academic and technical skills as well as strong communities and families. The DeKalb County Community Foundation CommunityWorks Workforce Development initiative focuses on soft skill enhancement with middle school youth based on three premises: 1) soft skill development is a community-wide enterprise involving schools, parents, employers, human service organizations, peers and other partners 2) middle school is an appropriate developmental target for this project as it is a period of significant physical, intellectual and emotional growth for youth and 3) it is important to build on what is already working in schools and the broader community to foster soft skills in area youth.

Guidelines & Eligibility:

Soft Skill Enhancement Grant (SSEG) applications are due on or before March 1, 2012 and will be reviewed and decided upon by members of the CommunityWorks Workforce Development Vision Committee. All requests must be submitted using the SSEG Application available below and on the DCCF website at www.dekalbccf.org under the CommunityWorks tab.

SSEG are limited to, and must be requested by, Middle School Educators (6th – 8th grade) in DeKalb County, Illinois. Grant proposals are due by March 1, 2012 and are to be utilized within one year of receipt. The maximum request amount is \$2,500. Grant requests may be for existing curriculum or for original innovative ideas that enhance soft skills in middle school youth. A listing of some existing programs and curriculum can be found at <http://www.niu.edu/cea/audience/ESocialEmotional.shtml>.

Acceptance of a Soft Skills Enhancement Grant includes participation with the NIU-Center on Early Adolescence to measure program outcomes and effectiveness in enhancing soft skills.

Projects/Uses Generally Not Funded:

- Operational phases of established programs
- Personnel costs associated with programs & projects
- Religious purposes (however grants can be give to religious organizations for non-religious purposes)
- Funds directed to specific individuals
- Field trips

Soft Skill Enhancement Grant Application

Date of request:

Contact person:

Contact person title:

School:

E-mail address:

Phone Number:

Project Description – to include: general description of project including goals and objectives, specific purpose of funds requested, target population served (e.g. age & grade level, classroom, extracurricular group, all students, at-risk students, etc.), activities planned to meet objectives, explanation of how project enhances soft skills in middle school youth, expected benefits and outcomes of the project. Please add additional pages as needed.

Total Overall Project Costs:

Project Budget Requested from DCCF: (max request amount \$2,500)

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Cost</u>
-----------------	-------------

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Your school administrator must approve this application/proposal prior to submission.

Signature:
(Contact person)

Date:

Signature:
(School Administrator/Principal)

Date: