

Community Outreach Fund

The Empire State College Community Outreach Fund exists to support activities undertaken by the college that increase participation in and access to college programs, particularly by current and potential students from underserved and underrepresented populations.

The college's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which is appointed by the president, manages the Community Outreach Fund. Proposals are submitted to the college's Affirmative Action Officer, Mary Morton, by email on or before April 1 each calendar year and then distributed to committee members for consideration. **Note: For 2013, the date has been extended to April 8, 2013.**

Committee members will confer on the merits of each proposal and applicants will be notified of the committee's decision. A center, program or office may apply for a total of \$2,000 in grants in a fiscal year, for one or more activities. Grant funds cannot be used to subsidize an employee salary. Approved expenses associated with an activity will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts.

Proposals should be for activities that increase awareness of educational opportunities at Empire State College among members of underserved and underrepresented populations. Each proposal submitted should be specific about the intended audience, details of the activity, the timeline for events and the desired outcomes.

To be eligible to apply for funding in future funding cycles, staff members who worked on the outreach initiative must submit a brief evaluation of the activity that describes what worked and what didn't work and compares actual outcomes to intended outcomes.

These reports will be posted on the Affirmative Action website with the description of the funded activity and be available for the entire college community to develop a better understanding of which outreach activities are effective and which are not.

The Community Outreach Fund was established to help achieve that goal by localizing efforts to reach diverse populations and increase their access to postsecondary education, raise awareness within the college about barriers faced by specific demographic groups, and document efforts across the college to reduce those barriers. As a public institution committed to access, this is one of many initiatives the college can undertake to connect to the many diverse communities in the state and nation.