

State Initiative Letter

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA) board of directors, it is my pleasure to announce the availability of funds for activities under the NEOA State Initiative. The NEOA board has again made substantial funds available to assist states in launching to develop effective strategies to influence state policy. These initiatives will position TRIO and other educational opportunity programs for greater legislative and fiscal support and increased recognition.

The focus for the competition is on initiatives that build relationships with members of Congress, and raise awareness of TRIO in new arenas. This is a critical year in which to make *strategic* use of these funds. Priority will be given to those proposals that make contributions in these areas.

NEOA identifies seven major State Initiative goals:

- To establish stronger relationships with state legislators, business leaders, civic leaders and foundation executives,
- To establish local and statewide alumni associations,
- To build stronger state TRIO/EOP Associations,
- To directly impact state and local appropriations for higher education,
- To generate additional revenue sources for TRIO,
- To establish stronger relationships with similar organizations and
- To demonstrate to the public that TRIO programs are effective and solid investments.

The NEOA State Initiatives awards will be made to state associations and individual projects in order to facilitate new or existing state advocacy activities. Individual projects should coordinate with the state association, where possible, when proposing an activity. The awards are intended to directly support the proposed activity, but can include necessary related food and transportation costs.

Funding levels will be determined by the needs of the project and the annual appropriation in the NEOA operating budget. Funds are normally made available in grants up to \$500. per activity, but can be proposed in larger amounts, as needed depending upon the activity.

NEOA State Initiative grant funds will be awarded on a rolling basis beginning immediately through the NEOA operating year, as funds allow. Funds are normally made available on a reimbursement basis, with the submission of detailed receipts to the NEOA Treasurer and Advocacy Chair.

Please submit grant proposals as soon as possible, and no later than August 1, 2025 for summer activities.

Requests for reimbursement must be made before the end of the NEOA budget year on August 31, 2025.

For more information, please contact Sarah Morrell, Chair, NEOA Advocacy, at sarah.morrell@umb.edu.

We look forward to your involvement!

Sincerely,

Sarah Morrell
Chair, NEOA Advocacy/State Initiatives Committee

A few State Initiative activity ideas are listed below. We welcome proposals for these and other activities, depending upon the scope of the proposed activity and the availability of funds.

Policy

State Meetings at Your State Capitol
State Policy Seminars
Legislative Agenda
Policy Briefs with State Leaders

State Building Relationships

Student Financial Aid Directors
Admissions Counselors
Civil Rights Groups
Teachers' Unions
Faith Leaders

Alumni

Alumni State Organization
Alumni Newsletter

Media

Op-Eds
Press Releases
Editorial Board Meetings
Web Site Development
Press Kits and Brochures

Business Fundraising Partnerships

Foundations
Corporations
State Agencies

Banks
Faith Communities
School Boards and School Districts
Local Government
Private Business
Individuals
Local Media
Non-profit Organizations

Research

White Papers
Fact Sheets