



Hamilton County Innovations!

June 2010

Fresh Ideas Special Offer!

**Receive an additional \$100 dollars for your
fresh idea if approved in 2010!**

INNOVATION QUOTE

“Anyone can look for fashion in a boutique or history in a museum. The creative explorer looks for history in a hardware store and fashion in an airport.”

— Robert Wieder



The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners' Employee Suggestion Program, *Fresh Ideas*, is offering an extra \$100 incentive bonus to employees whose idea (one which projects an annual monetary savings or enhancement in revenue of \$200 or more) is approved during 2010. So, your total reward would be \$300 (before all applicable taxes are deducted). Or, you have the option of choosing one-day paid leave.

Do you see yourself as creative? Do you have innovative ideas on how to improve County services and processes? Do you have suggestions on how the County can work toward viable money-savings or revenue generating business outcomes?

IF SO

We want to know what you're thinking! We'll reward you for any implemented ideas!

DID YOU KNOW ...

If your approved idea saves \$199 or less, your name is entered into a raffle with prizes that include one-month paid parking at the A&D Parkhaus, tickets to a Cincinnati area event or a gift certificate to a local restaurant. For a limited time and as an added bonus, your name will be re-entered into the next raffle if you're not selected as a winner.

We want to partner with you in making Hamilton County a better place to work. Remember ...

IT ONLY TAKES ONE IDEA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

For more information on the Fresh Ideas Program, please contact Kim Pennekamp, Human Resources Department, at 946-4705 (if you're an employee under the BOCC). JFS employees may contact LaShawn Cook, Human Resources, at 946-1486.

Job and Family Services Employees' Project Gain Project Saves Over \$100,000 in First Year

Two employees from Job & Family Services each received \$1,000 for going above and beyond their normal job duties when they submitted a new and innovative Project Gain Program. Scott Kirby, a Computer Operator, and Stephen Lonski, a Network Administrator, worked together to streamline the Child Care Voucher process.

They streamlined forms and the way forms are mailed to simplify the mailing process, reduce postage, and make it easier for customers to keep track of their paperwork.

Scott and Steve worked together to develop a new, double-sided, one page form, which saves paper costs. A large part of

the savings came from Scott and Steve's proposal that multiple vouchers going to the same recipient be combined into one envelope, which saves money spent on postage and envelopes. 75% of JFS voucher recipients receive multiple vouchers while only 25% receive a single voucher. Before, each voucher was mailed in separate envelopes to the same recipient.

The customers are very happy with the new vouchers, because they don't have to track multiple pieces of mail. The new process was implemented in July of 2009 and has saved approximately \$109,000 to date.

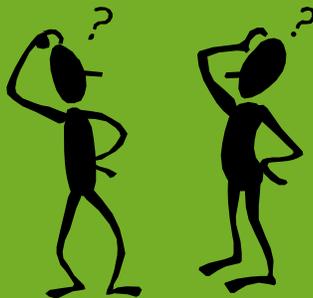
Way to go Scott Kirby and Stephen

Lonski! They went the extra mile to improve a process, save money and please customers!

Consider how this Project Gain program can be used in your organization. Do you have a similar printing and mailing process? You can use some of these ideas to improve your process and save money for your organization.

Do you want to earn extra money???? You can! Submit a Project Gain Program or a Fresh Idea. See the Human Resources website for more information about both Innovation Reward Programs. Go to:

<http://www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/personnel>



Want a more efficient processes or forms? Ask lots of questions!

Is there a process or a form that you use on a daily basis that causes you unwanted frustration? The key is to ask questions, and lots of them. Asking questions will help you innovate a new, more efficient way to complete a process or change a form. Some questions you might ask:

- What part of the process/form do I have control over?
- Why isn't it working?
- Who can I ask to get different opinions and perspectives on the process/form?
- What aspects of the process/form can be done differently?
- Where is the process/form inadequate?
- When is the opportune time to implement new changes?

"Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers."

~ Voltaire

The more questions you ask yourself and others about the process or form, the more ammo you have to change it for the better. Don't wait for one more frustration, start your question quest today!