

## *Do You Have An Innovative Idea?*

The Pioneer Fund provides investment capital for creative projects that turn relatively small amounts of money into noteworthy, cost-effective improvements in quality, productivity, and customer service.

Through the Pioneer Fund, Commerce employees' innovative ideas can be funded quickly in a streamlined manner.



## *We Want to Help You Make Your Good Ideas a Reality.*

In the course of your daily work, how often do you see an answer to a problem or a way to take advantage of an opportunity, but lack the resources to implement it? We encourage all employees to submit their ideas for improving how Commerce does business. All grant applications – whether for large or small amounts – are welcome. They all add up to a Department that offers better service to the American public.

The Pioneer Fund finances initiatives that **are not** currently funded in your budget, although your organization's management supports them. Individual employees or groups may submit applications.

Help us make Commerce work better by sharing your innovative ideas.



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## **Good Ideas** **For Better Government**



## **FY 2005 PIONEER FUND GRANTS**

**Funding Innovative Ideas from  
Commerce Employees Since 1987**

**U.S. Department of Commerce**

## Overview of the Fund



The Pioneer Fund, established as part of a Departmental Quality Improvement Initiative in 1987, gives Commerce employees the opportunity to develop, propose, and implement ideas to improve the way their agencies fulfill their missions and serve the public.

We know Commerce employees have many ideas for solving problems and developing innovative ways to do business. We want to hear about your idea and the plan for implementing that idea and monitoring its success. While we understand that innovative ideas are often risky, we are interested in plans that have a reasonable chance of achieving the desired benefits.

Grants are available in any amount up to \$50,000. All applications--regardless of funding requested--will be evaluated on their merits.

## The Grant Process



FY 2005 Pioneer Fund grants will be awarded in December 2004. A qualifying application must describe how your project meets the Pioneer Fund criteria, including how your office will monitor its results. Grant applications will be rated by an Evaluation Panel, in consultation with technical, management, and budget experts.

Applications must be submitted to the Office of Management and Organization by October 15, 2004. Application packages, instructions, and additional information can be found on the Commerce web site at [www.osec.doc.gov/pioneer](http://www.osec.doc.gov/pioneer).

### Schedule for the Grant Process

<b>Application Deadline</b>	October 15, 2004
<b>Grants Announced:</b>	December 2004

For more information, application materials and instructions, go to [www.osec.doc.gov/pioneer](http://www.osec.doc.gov/pioneer)

## Funding Criteria

Grant applications are rated based on the following criteria:

- Innovation.**  
How the project represents a new and fresh way of doing business for your organization.
- Improvement.**  
How the project is expected to improve productivity, improve the quality of services or products, or enhance customer service.
- Feasibility.**  
Whether the project can be carried out using the proposed methodology and within the proposed time frames.
- Monitoring.**  
Whether you have defined success criteria and a plan for monitoring the project accordingly.

