

Lean' government initiative extended to city, county and school officials

By Barb Galbincea
November 19, 2013

CLEVELAND, Ohio – A state initiative meant to weed out waste in government, increase efficiency and provide better service is being extended to training for local government officials.

The new Local Government Efficiency Program, kicked off Monday at Cleveland State University, will provide scholarships for leaders from Ohio's cities, counties and school districts to get training at colleges around the state and from other certified partners. The first session will be at CSU on Jan. 27.

Bay Village Mayor Debbie Sutherland, who earned a master's degree in public administration from CSU, was among those on hand for Monday's announcement by Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor. Sutherland, Bay's mayor for 13 years, said that "the whole game has changed" over the past 10 years for city leaders.

She said that's why programs like the Local Government Efficiency Program are so important to really examine the way that local officials are doing business. "In many cases, local governments are still fighting 'legacy' process," said Sutherland.

She also said she was eager for Bay to be part of the new program, noting that the city has outsourced and privatized some services to streamline its operation.

Taylor said outdated or ineffective processes can prevent government from delivering the best service. She said Gov. John Kasich's administration is "committed to eliminating waste and making government more responsive."

The idea behind the new program is to give local officials access to the same tools that have helped state government save \$150 million annually and reduce "wait time" for services by an average of almost 70 percent since 2011, Taylor said. The state budget provides \$4.6 million in this fiscal year and \$5.9 million in fiscal 2015 for the local government training through the Local Government Innovation Fund.

Article continued here: http://www.cleveland.com/bay-village/index.ssf/2013/11/lean_government_initiative_ext.html#incart_river