

FACT SHEET

FY2009 Academic Library Incentive Grant

BACKGROUND

Massachusetts academic institutions are valued participants in the multitype regional library systems. There are over 125 academic regional member libraries, but only a small percentage of these institutions have submitted long-range plans for approval by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This grant program is being offered to further encourage academic regional library members to complete and submit long-range plans to the MBLC to become eligible for future LSTA grant opportunities.

It is also an interest of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to provide librarians with opportunities to help fulfill their long range plan goals and objectives. Funding under this grant is provided to help academic libraries carry out goals and objectives from their MBLC approved long-range plans, as long as the project includes a significant program component to assure that the specific target population will be directly served by the grant. The grants may address the unique challenges that academic libraries face such as communication and collaboration within library departments, as well as across campus and with the outside community, instruction, collections and access, among others. The project may include measurement and assessment tools that address service quality, electronic resource usage, and outcomes assessment.

A total of five grants for \$5,000 will be funded under this competitive grant program.

MASSACHUSETTS LONG RANGE PLAN

A library may focus on either of the following goals of the Massachusetts LSTA Long Range Plan 2008-2012:

Goal 2: Library users will have access to effective library and information services provided by well-trained and supported library staff.

Goal 3: All Massachusetts residents will be better prepared to meet life's challenges at school, in the workplace, and in their daily lives through access to programs and training that foster their development of information literacy skills and communication technology skills.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Data, rationale and budget supporting use of grant funds is required.
- Applications require:
 - a significant program component to assure that the specific target population will be directly served,
 - measurable, outcome-based goals and objectives are important to a project's approval.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for direct grants, an academic library must:

- Be a member of a regional library system;
- Have a long-range plan on file at the MBLC by October 1, 2007 that meets the requirements of the *Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 2008-2012* and the *LSTA Policies and Procedures 2008-2012*. If a plan is already on file, an updated Action Plan for FY2009 must be on file by December 3, 2007;
- Attend a grant application workshop (January/February 2008) and, if awarded a grant, an awardees' training workshop in fall 2008;
- For libraries that received an MBLC LibQual+ grant in FY06-FY08, they may apply for an Academic Library Incentive Grant, but grant funds may not be used for an additional LibQual survey.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** by **December 3, 2007** with the “Academic Library Incentive Grant” option checked off under **TYPE**. Applicants should refer to the enclosed calendar for due dates in this year’s round. An informational workshop to assist applicants in completing an application for this program will be held in January 2008. For additional information about this program, please contact Marlene Heroux at the MBLC at 800-952-7403, ext. 250 or by e-mail at marlene.heroux@state.ma.us.