

FACT SHEET

FY2009 Network Connections and Servers

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to offset a portion of the costs for maintaining and upgrading telecommunications- and server-related hardware and software for the nine automated resource sharing networks. Activities covered include: replacing aging core telecommunications hardware for network central sites and remote library locations to prevent telecommunications failures for mission-critical library operations; upgrading member capacity; increasing security; maximizing bandwidth efficiency; allowing new wireless services to be deployed within the library; and replacing aging system servers or adding to server capacity where network growth/load warrants

Types of equipment to be purchased include: central site routers and switches, remote site routers and switches, DSU's, firewalls, VPN (virtual private network) equipment, packet prioritization and compression equipment, and related equipment.

MASSACHUSETTS LONG-RANGE PLAN GOAL

Goal 1: Massachusetts residents, no matter where they live, will find and obtain the resources they need using an improved technological infrastructure that links all types of libraries and provides and coordinates shared electronic resources. Residents will have access to digitized images of unique and valuable resources, improved access tools, and properly preserved physical and electronic materials.

ELIGIBILITY AND NETWORK RESPONSIBILITIES

To be eligible for this program, a network must:

- 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**.
- Each member of the network must be a member of a regional library system as a contingency of any direct grant award. An application from a network can be submitted on behalf of several members, as well as the entire group.

Priorities

Based on two iterations of the *Technology Needs Survey of Automated Resource Sharing Networks* (August, 2003 and August, 2004), a number of telecommunications-related hardware/software needs over the next three years have been identified. The following priorities have not changed from the FY04 grant round.

Priority 1 – Core Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance

Requests for equipment replacement must be supported by evidence that:

- Existing equipment is a bottleneck
- Equipment is malfunctioning (service records)
- Equipment is no longer being supported (“end-of-lifed”)

- Equipment will be used to ameliorate insufficient bandwidth capacity to the library, e.g., increase 56k to fractional T-1

Up to 75% of hardware/software and up to 50% of installation costs, depending upon availability of funds.

Examples of hardware and software are:

- Backbone routers – Aging backbone routers purchased under the original TCP/IP grants in the mid-to-late 1990's.
- Packet-Shaping equipment at the central site and at remote library locations
- Replacing library and central site LAN hubs with switches
- Replace library routers, CSU/DSU's ("base" router, not including optional VLAN Wireless modules/upgrades. See **Priority 2** below)
- Firewall additions/replacements/upgrades
- Virtual Private Networking (VPN) equipment if shown to replace more costly telecomm circuits (Networks requesting VPN connections over the public Internet must demonstrate that this is a cost-effective, secure, and sufficiently reliable solution for their member connection to the central site.)
- Central Site Server Upgrades/Replacement

Priority 2 - Wireless

Wireless router modules and wireless security equipment. Other internal library wireless equipment beyond the router is not eligible (*e.g.*, access nodes, antennae, wireless bridges). Up to 50% of hardware/software costs. Installation is not included.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING

There is a total of \$200,000 available for FY2009 from the LSTA Special Projects budget. We expect this to be a highly competitive grant round. Due to the extreme economic pressures faced by networks, for Priority 1 equipment, the FY09 grant round maintains last year's maximum offset for eligible equipment and software costs of a maximum of 75% and offers the possibility of up to 50% installation costs, depending upon the availability of funds. Cost proposals submitted with applications shall include any relevant E-rate discounts.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** by **December 1, 2007** with the "Network Connections and Servers" option checked off under **TYPE**. Applicants should refer to the enclosed calendar for due dates in this year's round. For additional information about this program, please contact Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, at the MBLC by phone 800-952-7403 ext. 238, or email paul.kissman@state.ma.us.