

FACT SHEET

Small Libraries in Networks FY2010

BACKGROUND

Under the Public Library Initiative (PLI), the Board of Library Commissioners proposed to support the costs for all public libraries serving populations fewer than 10,000 (and certain others) to affiliate with or join an automated resource sharing network. This program was to provide ongoing services and support for 139 public libraries for three levels of network service: Online Internet, Online Affiliate Membership, and Full circulating Membership (including C/W MARS Mininet). For each level of service, the program is intended to provide:

- Partial offset of new member charges
- All necessary telecommunications equipment
- An offset of the annual network service fee
- The annual cost of a telecommunications circuit to connect the library on a full time, always on (not dial-up) basis

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.

PURPOSE OF GRANT

In fiscal years 2002 and 2003, the Board offered support for the Small Libraries in Networks program using funds provided in a state supplemental budget for library technology. In those two application rounds, a total of 65 libraries have received support. Beginning in 2004, however, state funds were not available to continue this program. This leaves these 65 libraries without a source of the ongoing support they need in order to maintain their membership in or dedicated connection to the network. For FY2006, the Board awarded two grants (C/W MARS and MVLC) to continue support for 61 of these libraries. The purpose of this FY09 grant program is to continue to provide for the cost of ongoing membership at current levels under the Small Libraries in Networks program for those libraries in communities of fewer than 10,000 population (and Easthampton, Hopkinton, Ludlow, Tyngsborough, and Millbury) that affiliated with a network through the SLIN program in FY2002 and FY2003.

SCOPE

This grant program implements the offset of annual network charges for libraries that joined a network through the Small Libraries in Networks program. This grant offering does not support the cost of new libraries joining networks, nor will it support an increased membership level for current participants. It remains the Board's intention to fund the full Small Libraries in Networks program should a source of state funds be identified.

ELIGIBILITY

Automated resource sharing networks are eligible to apply. In addition, a network must:

- Apply on behalf of current eligible public library members. Individual libraries do **not** need to send Letters of Intent. These libraries must:
 - Be in a municipality that was certified to receive State Aid to Public Libraries in FY2008 and remain certified throughout the application and award process.
 - Have received previous support under the state-funded Small Libraries in Networks program.
 - Belong to municipalities of fewer than 10,000 population, with the exception of Easthampton, Hopkinton, Ludlow, Tyngsborough, and Millbury who are also eligible.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING

A total of \$125,000 will be available for this program in FY2010. Grants will be awarded, based on staff review, to eligible networks that submit proposals complying with program requirements and guidelines. Funding based on level of network membership will be: \$1200 for Online Internet, \$1800 for Online Affiliate, and \$2500 for Full Members (including C/W MARS Mininet).

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** POSTMARKED by **December 1, 2008** with the "Small Libraries in Networks" option checked off under **TYPE**. If you need more information about this program, call Paul Kissman, Library Technology Specialist, at 800-952-7403 x238 or email at paul.kissman@state.ma.us.