

# FACT SHEET

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## 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: ILS servers, central site routers and switches, remote site routers and switches, DSU's, firewalls, VPN (virtual private network) 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

The nine automated resource sharing networks are eligible to apply. Each member of the network must be a member of the Massachusetts 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.

### 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 fractional T-1 to cable/fiber.

Up to 60% of hardware/software and up to 40% of installation costs, depending upon availability of funds.

Examples of hardware and software are:

- Backbone routers – Aging backbone routers

- Replacing library and central site LAN routers and switches
- 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

### **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 \$70,000 available for FY2013 from the LSTA Special Projects budget. Cost proposals submitted with applications shall include any relevant E-rate discounts.

### **INTERESTED?**

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** form with the “Network Connections and Servers” option checked off under **TYPE**. 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](mailto:paul.kissman@state.ma.us).