Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
2019 STATE GRANT PROGRAM

Resource Sharing Program

FACT SHEET

Purpose of this Grant Offering

The Resource Sharing Program provides an opportunity for the state to help offset the costs of libraries that share their materials with other libraries, both within their automated network, and beyond. Grant awards are made to each of nine eligible networks, based on titles, holdings, and interlibrary loan activity facilitated through the network.

Background

The Resource Sharing grant program was implemented statewide in 1998 with new Strategic Plan funding in account 7000-9506. Since that time, title counts have doubled (7 to 13.7 million), total holdings have increased by over 50% (26 to 42 million), and ILL activity has increased by 500% (from less than 1 million to 6 million items per year).

Procedures

In past years, each network has provided MBLC title and holdings counts, and interlibrary loan activity (network transfers, Commonwealth Catalog and point-to-point lending). Awards were based on a common base amount, with remaining funds apportioned based on previous year's data collection as follows: 50% for titles, 20% for holdings and 30% for interlibrary loans.

FY18 Process Continues for FY19

In FY17, MBLC took a simpler and more predictable method for allocating available funds in this program. Networks agreed to "freeze" the formula inputs for a period of three years, for FY17 – FY19.

Methodology

Common Base: The grant formula will continue to include the common base amount for each network. In FY17, this was $20,000.

Five Year Averages: The title, holdings, and ILL data reported by each networks for the five grant rounds FY12 through FY16[1] have been averaged to smooth over counting anomalies. The traditional ratio of 50% for titles, 20% for holdings and 30% for interlibrary loans are then applied.

>   Example: Given $700,000 in available funds (after the base awards) a network with 10% of the total number of titles for all networks would receive 10% of 50% of the remaining funds, or $35,000, for titles.

Justification

Defining a network title or holding has become increasingly problematic over the last few years as

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[1] Title and holdings counts from snapshots taken on June 30, 2011-2015 and network transfers/ ILLs for FY12 - FY16.

different modes of incorporating e-content into a catalog and different licensing agreements are referenced by networks. Counting Overdrive Advantage titles, Commonwealth eBook Collection titles, and very large sets (hundreds of thousands of titles) of demand driven reference and journal titles make equitable comparisons between networks difficult.

ILLs are less prone to definitional complexity, though excluding --or counting-- renewals of items lent via network transfer is handled quite differently from one system to another and cannot be compared fairly.

Networks have stressed the importance of predictable state funding from year to year. Networks appreciate knowing –at least approximately-- what their share of the Resource Sharing program will look like before they finalize their budgets in late summer / early fall.

Duration
MBLC and the networks have committed to this methodology for a period of three years (FY17 – FY19). Though data will still be collected annually, the funding will not be directly tied to the current year's counts. During this period MBLC will work with the networks to find a grant formula that is fair, stable, and predictable.

Eligible Applicants
The nine automated resource sharing networks are eligible to apply: CLAMS, C/W MARS, FLO, MBLN, Minuteman Library Network, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN and SAILS.

Application Process

Forms/memoranda sent to Networks	July 6, 2018
Applications due	August 17, 2018
Meet with Networks to discuss preliminary figures	September 21, 2018
Board votes grant awards	October 2018 Board Meeting

Anticipated Funding
The amount of Resource Sharing funds available is expected to be, at a minimum, $965,002 (FY19 House Budget) and may increase up to $1.3 million depending on the final FY19 budget figure for 7000-9506.

If the total amount of funds available should change, the formula will be applied to derive the recommended award amounts to each grant recipient.

To Apply
Complete the reporting and request forms for this program and submit to: amy.clayton@state.ma.us (Amy Clayton) at the MBLC offices, 98 North Washington St., Suite 401, Boston, MA 02114 by **4:00 PM on August 17, 2018**.

Questions?
Questions about this grant program should be directed to Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, at 617-725-1860 x238 or 800-952-7403.