FY2025 Small Libraries in Networks
Fact Sheet

Purpose

The Small Libraries in Networks grant round allows the MBLC to help more than 150 libraries in municipalities with a population of less than 10,000 to participate as full members of an automated resource sharing network. Grant funds received by the network are directly applied to offset each library's annual membership fee.

For the first year in which a qualifying library joins a network, there is a Joining Networks supplement available. This additional funding will offset network on-boarding costs for the library.

This grant opportunity also provides an administrative fee to the CW MARS network for coordinating Internet access and manages payment reimbursements for non-member small public libraries receiving internet funding support through the Telecommunications for Resource Sharing program.

FY25 Formula

In FY20, the program implemented a new formula, detailed below. FY25 awards will continue to use the same formula, with a review to also take place during the year. This year we anticipate 4 libraries will enter the program and also require the Joining Networks supplement.

The three formula components are:

1) **Common Base Amount** ($1,450)

2) **Municipal Need**
   (E-rate discount percentage [20 -90%] * $1,350)

3) **Relative Network Cost** ($400)
   (Total appropriated municipal income [TAMI] is greater than 6% of the library's network membership assessment)

Municipal population for baseline program eligibility is checked every year against the latest Department of Revenue socioeconomic data figures.

Beginning with FY23, an 85% cap was implemented. A few libraries' membership fees are at, or below their calculated SLIN award, thereby requiring no local contribution at all. CW MARS and MBLC

agreed to cap any library's award at 85% of the actual membership cost, so that the library was responsible for a minimal annual assessment of 15%.

Though the budget outcome for FY25 looks promising, whenever there has been the prospect of potential budget to account 7000-9506, it has been understood that the Small Libraries program should be protected as much as possible. Individual libraries rely on this funding to sustain their network membership.

Should cuts be required in FY25, fully funding this grant will be the top priority, but a combination of factors may be applied in calculating a reduction.

Reporting

The MBLC will require annually:

- A narrative report that describes the network's overall infrastructure health, upcoming needs/projects/changes, and projects that were addressed with network infrastructure grant funds during the previous fiscal year.
- A summary of how funds have been expended during the previous fiscal year.
- A financial report providing the year-end balance of grant funds from both the previous year and accumulated from previous years.
- For networks receiving a Joining Networks supplement, an accounting of those expenditures and a report on the on-boarding progress of each library.

Eligible Applicants

Automated resource sharing networks with public libraries in eligible municipalities may apply: CLAMS, CW MARS, Minuteman, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN, and SAILS. Municipalities covered by the network application must be certified for state aid at the time of the award.

In addition, CW MARS may apply for the administrative costs to manage connectivity for the few small non-networked public libraries that receive basic internet support via the Telecommunications for Resource Sharing program.

Application Process

Networks are the applicants. They will receive and administer the grant funds on behalf of the public libraries. Individual public libraries do not apply directly.

Calendar

Forms/memoranda sent to Networks	July 10, 2024
Applications due	August 16, 2024
Meet with Networks to discuss preliminary figures	September, 2024
Board votes grant awards	October, 2024

Anticipated Funding

This is a formula-driven grant program with an anticipated total commitment of $388,000 for participating SLIN libraries, and an anticipated additional commitment of no more than $12,000 for the Joining Networks supplement. If the total amount of funds available should change, the formula priorities described above and contained in the Small Libraries in Networks Review Committee final recommendations (presented to the Board 10/3/19) 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@mass.gov (Amy Clayton) via email by **4:00 PM on August 16, 2024**.

Questions?

Questions about this grant program should be directed to Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist, at kate.butler@mass.gov, 617-725-1860 x253 or 800-952-7403.