

## **2021 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. Since that time, title counts have doubled (7 to 13.6 million), total holdings have increased by over 50% (26 to 40 million), and ILL activity has increased from less than 1 million to 8.6 million items per year.

#### **Procedures**

Each network provides MBLC with title and holdings counts, and interlibrary loan activity (network transfers, Commonwealth Catalog, point-to-point lending and eContent lending). Awards are 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.

#### **Data and Formula Frozen Again for FY21**

In FY17, MBLC began to look for 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 while a sub-committee worked on an improved methodology. In FY20, due to significant impact on ILL figures from the rollout of the Library eBooks and AudioBooks (LEA) sharing effort the previous years' approach was extended through FY20.

A new formula has been developed and accepted in principle. However, without a good budget estimate for all of account 7000-9506, and with ILL activity coming to a standstill since March, the grant procedure will continue to use the frozen data and formula from previous years so that each would know what portion of the total Resource Sharing Award to expect. Stability is seen by the networks as paramount.

#### **“Frozen” Methodology**

Common Base: The grant formula includes a common base amount for each network. In FY20, 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<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

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

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 different modes of incorporating e-content into a catalog and different licensing agreements are referenced by networks. Counting Overdrive Advantage titles, streaming service 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.

### **Eligible Applicants**

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

### **LEA Platform Fees**

The Resource Sharing Grant also includes LEA networks' OverDrive platform fees out of account 7000-9702 (LSTA). The total amount is expected to be \$102,000 for all eight participating networks. For the Boston instance of OverDrive, BPL will be the LSTA grant recipient rather than MBLN.

### **Application Process**

Forms/memoranda sent to Networks	July 10, 2020
Applications due	August 21, 2020
Meet with Networks to discuss preliminary figures	September, 2020*
Board votes grant awards	October, 2020*

\* Timing of the meeting and award recommendations is dependent upon the FY21 State Budget process

### **Anticipated Funding**

The total available for this grant will be determined once the FY21 7000-9506 budget is known. The Resource Sharing grant amount in FY20 was \$1.6 million.

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](mailto: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 21, 2020**.

**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.

Q:\State Grants\Fact Sheets\2021\FY21 Resource Sharing Grant Round Fact Sheet.docx

DRAFT