

2021 STATE GRANT PROGRAM

Small Libraries in Networks

FACT SHEET

Purpose of this Grant Offering

The Small Libraries in Networks grant round allows the MBLC to help approximately 144 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.

This grant opportunity also provides an administrative fee to the CW MARS network for coordinating Internet access and manages payment reimbursements for the approximately 12 small public libraries receiving internet funding support through the Telecommunications for Resource Sharing program.

FY21 Program Based on FY20 Formula

In FY20, the program implemented a new formula, and the overall awards total increased from \$329,025 to \$362,147. FY21 awards will continue to use the new formula.

The three components are:

- 1) Common Base Amount (\$1450)
- 2) Municipal Need (E-rate discount % * \$1,350)
- 3) Relative Network Cost (TAMI > 6% Assessment = \$400)

With the prospect of potential budget cuts, it is understood that the Small Libraries program should be protected as much as possible. Individual libraries rely on this funding to sustain their network membership.

For FY20, libraries that would have seen a decrease based on the new formula were held harmless. Should cuts be required in FY21, a combination of factors, including a softening the "hold harmless" approach for libraries that received more than formula based award and an overall cut in the base amount will be applied.

Eligible Applicants

Automated resource sharing networks with public libraries in eligible municipalities may apply, including: CLAMS, CW MARS, Minuteman, MVLC, OCLN, and SAILS.

In addition, CW MARS may apply for the administrative costs to manage connectivity for approximately 12 small non-networked public libraries that receiving 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.

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

This is a formula-driven grant program. If the total amount of funds available should change, the formula priorities described above 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 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.