

## **2022 STATE GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Resource Sharing Program**

#### **FACT SHEET**

#### **Purpose**

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.

#### **Background**

The Resource Sharing grant program was implemented statewide in 1998. Since that time, title counts have risen from 7 to 12.3 million, total holdings have increased by 50% (26 to 39 million), and ILL activity has increased from less than 1 million to 8.4 million items per year<sup>1</sup>.

#### **New Formula for FY22**

In FY17, MBLC and the networks began to look for a simpler and more predictable method for allocating available funds in this program. The long-established formula relied on title, holdings, and ILL counts. The new formula is based on network operating expenditures (80%), membership size (10%), and ILL counts (10%). These factors have been chosen as they:

- 1) most accurately reflected the historic distribution of funding from the program,
- 2) are a fair proxy for the costs of running a network in relation to how many members are being supported, and,
- 3) recognize that in a resource sharing program, interlibrary loan activity should be included in some manner. Libraries are encouraged to lend to other libraries in part because networks receive funding through this grant program.

Because the new approach will shift the relative percentage that each network receives from the total available funds, safeguards have been put in place. No network will see a decrease or increase of more than 3% in any given year. The shift will occur over a five-year period based on the snapshot of data taken in FY22.

#### **Procedures**

Each network will provide MBLC with total operating expenditures for the previous fiscal year, total member and outlet counts for the current year, and interlibrary loan activity (network transfers, Commonwealth Catalog, point-to-point lending and eContent lending). MBLC staff will apply these data and present to the networks at their September meeting for consideration before the Board votes awards.

#### **Eligible Applicants**

The nine automated resource sharing networks are eligible to apply: CLAMS, CW MARS, FLO,

---

<sup>1</sup> With the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, ILL activity was slightly down overall, though eContent lending through the LEA program saw significant increases. The ILL change is expected to be much more significant in the FY21 data report.

MBLN, Minuteman Library Network, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN and SAILS.

### **Application Process**

Forms/memoranda sent to Networks	July 09, 2021
Applications due	August 20, 2021
Meet with Networks to discuss preliminary figures	September, 2021
Board votes grant awards	October, 2021

### **Anticipated Funding**

The total amount available for this grant is expected to be the same as in FY21, \$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 via email to: [amy.clayton@mass.gov](mailto:amy.clayton@mass.gov) (Amy Clayton) by **4:00 PM on August 20, 2021**.

### **Questions?**

Questions about this grant program should be directed to: Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, at [paul.kissman@mass.gov](mailto:paul.kissman@mass.gov), 617-725-1860 x238 or 800-952-7403.