FACT SHEET

Purpose of this Grant Offering

The Small Libraries in Networks grant round allows the MBLC to help approximately 148 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.

FY22 Program Based on FY20 Formula

In FY20, the program implemented a new formula, and the overall awards total increased from $329,025 to $363,983 in FY21. FY22 awards will continue to use the new formula.

The three 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)

Though the budget outcome for FY22 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 FY22, a combination of factors, including a softening the "hold harmless" approach for libraries that have historically received more than the 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. 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 approximately 10 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.

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
This is a formula-driven grant program. 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 via email to: amy.clayton@mass.gov (Amy Clayton) at the MBLC offices 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, 617-725-1860 x238 or 800-952-7403.