



Massachusetts Libraries

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

FACT SHEET

Innovative “Open” Grant Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This category provides the opportunity to satisfy the needs of library customers that are not now being met by current programs. It is a priority of the federal program to encourage innovation and risk taking. The Innovative program will allow applicants to apply new methods to solve problems, build programs, and best carry out their library’s mission and plan. These projects must meet the needs of a specific target audience. It is important that applicants speak with a consultant about their project ideas for feedback and guidance prior to submitting an application.

The Innovative LSTA grant program allows applicants as much flexibility in the development of their projects as possible. Applicants can seek grant funds for projects that otherwise do not fall under the current LSTA program offerings, whether the project is innovative or a project that you might be adapting. The Innovative Program offers libraries an opportunity to exercise maximum creativity to implement unique services in a flexible and collaborative grant-making environment. It encourages creative program development and rewards those librarians willing to engage in a higher level of effort and to take those risks.

The “Open” grant program also allows applicants to develop a grant proposal for “great grants from the past” - grants such as “Reader’s Advisory” or “Community Languages” or “Mother Goose on the Loose” – grants that aren’t specifically offered in the current round that libraries would like to pursue.

ELIGIBILITY

Any library or cooperating group that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs is eligible to apply. A cooperating group may apply on behalf of one or more of its members, however, as well as the entire group.

BUDGET/FUNDING

Projects may be funded for 1 or 2 years. It is anticipated that funding requests will be in a range of \$5,000 to \$25,000 total (funding for cooperatives may exceed this maximum under certain circumstances). Applicants are reminded that a significant program component is required for any project to assure that the target population will be directly served. Measurable, outcome-based goals and objectives are important to a project’s approval. Requests that are largely for materials, equipment, or staff will not be considered. As a general guide, none of these budget elements should exceed 30% of the total amount requested. A significant local in-kind contribution is expected. Requests for library automation systems or for retrospective conversion cannot be accepted under this program.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form with the “Innovative” option checked off. Applicants should include a project abstract (150-200 words), including goals and activities of the project with the letter of intent to help us put you in touch with the appropriate consultant.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Contact us at 1-800-952-7403:

- Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist, ext. 236 or gregor.trinkaus-randall@state.ma.us
- Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, ext. 238 or paul.kissman@state.ma.us
- Shelley Quezada, Underserved Populations Specialist, ext. 235 or shelley.quezada@state.ma.us
- Erin Williams Hart, Trustee/Friends Information Specialist, ext. 232 or erin.williamshart@state.ma.us

2013-2017 MASSACHUSETTS LONG RANGE PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE

The project must address an objective of the Massachusetts Long Range Plan 2013-2017.