



Serving 'Tweens & Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will allow public libraries to apply for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$15,000 over a two year period to carry out a targeted program aimed at middle and high school-aged “tweens” and “teens.” Libraries must conduct a preliminary needs assessment including surveys or focus groups with teens as well as interviews with community leaders, parents, and teachers. As part of the grant program libraries will be expected to:

- Utilize the Massachusetts Library Association’s “[Standards for Public Library Service to Young Adults](#)” and [YALSA’s National Guidelines](#), including their “[Teen Space Guidelines](#)”, along with their library’s long range or strategic plan for direction in planning their project and proposal;
- Form or strengthen a Teen Advisory Board (TAB);
- With input from the TAB, develop creative programming strategies which will reach out and meet the needs of ‘tweens and teens;
- Develop collections of materials including books, audiobooks, CDs, magazines, games, graphic novels, DVDs, and digital content. Collections should be aligned, in part, with material needed by the middle and high school students as part of Massachusetts state standards and curriculum;
- Examine the library’s “teen space” and have it meet (or move towards meeting) the goals set by the teen board. This may include limited redesign.

Explore programming, equipment and materials that encourage teens and tweens to become content creators at the library. Consider purchasing software and equipment that allows teens to make music, games, video, artwork, podcasts, apps, etc.

Limited grant funds may be used to pay for extra hours for the Young Adult librarian or to hire staff to help with extra activities related to the Teen Advisory Board or programming during afternoon, evening or weekend hours.

Collaboration should be demonstrated with middle/high school librarians, school personnel and local youth organizations such as Boys & Girls clubs, YMCA/YWCA, scouts, sports facilities, religious organizations or community centers.

ELIGIBILITY

Any public library that meets standard eligibility requirements for Direct Grant programs and has identified a need to serve middle and high school students in their long range plans is eligible to apply.

INTERESTED?

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent form with the "Serving 'Tweens and Teens" option checked off. If you need more information about this program, please call Erin Williams Hart at the MBLC at 800-952-7403 ext. 232 or email erin.williamshart@state.ma.us.

BACKGROUND

According to a recent PEW Internet report, "[Parents, Children, Libraries & Reading](#)" (May 2013) 94% of parents say libraries are important for their children, 81% say a major reason libraries are important is that libraries provide their children with information and resources not available at home and almost every parent (97%) says it is important for libraries to offer programs and classes for children and teens. The need for programs, services and space for tweens and teens in libraries is apparent but this audience can be hard to reach with reduced budgets and a lack of trained staff. The purpose of this LSTA program is to provide an opportunity for libraries to develop programs, services, collections and space that meet the needs of their young adult population. Applicants should explore innovative ways to create or revive a comprehensive young adult program that encompasses the digital and physical needs of tweens and teens.

2013-2017 MASSACHUSETTS LONG RANGE PLAN GOAL & OBJECTIVE

Goal 1: Support learners of all ages with their individual educational and learning goals.

Objective 2: MBLC supports literacy programs for all ages.