



# Massachusetts Libraries

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date: November 9, 2017  
To: Libraries, Networks, Affiliates, Cooperating Groups, and other Library Consortia  
From: Ruth Urell, Head of Library Advisory and Development  
Re: New Grant Round

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is pleased to announce the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) FY2019 grant round. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners uses federal LSTA funding to provide direct grants to:

- Provide seed money to libraries to offer innovative or new services for local residents;
- Encourage cooperation with other libraries and organizations;
- Meet the needs of libraries and library users in the Commonwealth.

The FY19 grant round offers several new programs based on the new Massachusetts' LSTA Five Year Plan, 2018-2022 which we hope you will find exciting and appropriate for your local needs! Grant opportunities are available to eligible public, academic, school, and special libraries and cooperating groups as described on the Grant Program Description. If you don't find a grant opportunity offered that you hoped you would find, the Board offers an Innovative/Open grant program. If you would like to apply for a grant that we are no longer offering, call and talk to us. We want this program to help you fill a need in your communities.

We are attaching here the Grant Round Calendar, Program Description, a copy of a flyer introducing the NEW grants, and the Letter of Intent form. You will find the LSTA Five Year Plan, 2018-2022, and full information, including detailed Fact Sheets, and additional documents, on the MBLC website <https://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/lsta/opportunities/>. Please call us if you'd like us to send you hard copies. To start the grant process, please submit a Letter of Intent to Amy Clayton at [amy.clayton@state.ma.us](mailto:amy.clayton@state.ma.us) by December 7, 2017.

To be eligible for an LSTA grant, a library or system:

- needs to have a current long range plan on file with the MBLC and a Fiscal Year 2019 action plan as of December 1, 2017;
- be a member of the Massachusetts Library System;
- and, for public libraries, be certified to participate in the State Aid Program for 2017.

### Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

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[mass.gov/libraries](http://mass.gov/libraries)  
(consumer portal)

[mass.gov/mblc](http://mass.gov/mblc)  
(agency site)



@mbclibraries

In general, libraries may apply for ONE grant per round and libraries that are working on the second year of a two-year grant are not eligible. Awards made for this round will be announced in July 2018, and projects will begin October 1, 2018.

This federal program is being held on the assumption that the MBLC will receive an adequate appropriation from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for Fiscal Year 2019. The MBLC awards LSTA grant monies through an open competitive grant process.

Before submitting a Letter of Intent, we encourage you to contact the various MBLC Program Specialists listed on the Fact Sheets if you have questions or need more information in selecting a program. They will be happy to assist you. General questions about LSTA, this grant round, or your library's eligibility may be directed to my attention.

We look forward to your participation in the 2019 grant round!

Sincerely,

Ruth Urell, Head of Library Advisory and Development  
800-952-7403 x 237