

FY2014-2017 State Aid for Public Library Construction Program

1) MHLS Board Priorities for Funding:

- Project must be **part of a long-range plan or a prioritized facility plan** which is reported to MHLS through the Construction Needs Action Memo issued annually in March and
- **Provide for at least one of the following (the more the better!):**
 - **An increase in services**, through an increase in usable public space or increased staff efficiencies (e.g., new buildings, additions to current buildings, renovation of existing areas for new uses); and/or
 - **An increase in access** (e.g., handicapped accessibility); and/or
 - **Energy conservation in the context of a professional's recommendations or with an historic preservation element.** For the purposes of the board's ranking a "professional's recommendation" will, at least, include the results of an Energy Audit by the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA).

2) The MHLS Board has generated the following definition of what an **"economically disadvantaged community"** will qualify as in our region to comply with the amended legislation that allows for state aid to be provided up to 75% for buildings/public libraries located in such a community. Application requests greater than 50% need to demonstrate how the project will address the service needs of one or more economically disadvantaged communities.

Definition:

(1) a political subdivision within which **15 percent** or more of the population is living in poverty as shown on the latest federal census.

(2) a public school district within which the percentage of student enrollment that is eligible for free and reduced lunch under the national school lunch program is **40 percent** or more for at least one month during the twelve months prior to the date of filing of the grant application.

(3) a political subdivision as described in #1 within which **10 percent** or more of the population is living in poverty and a public school district as described in #2 within which the percentage of student enrollment that is eligible for free and reduced lunch under the national school lunch program is **30 percent** or more.

