

FY2015-2018 State Aid for Public Library Construction Program

Action Item 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; to optimize a space to bring in a new or underserved population); 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).

Action Item 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.

