

Construction Grant Applications (FY2015-2016)

MHLS Incentives Committee Recommendations

Background

MHLS member libraries have reported a **need for over \$55,000,000** for construction, expansion and renovation through the 2015 Construction Needs Update Action Memo. Applicants for the '15-'16 round of construction funds have requested over **\$840,000**.

Total Available Funds for 2015-2016: MHLS has been allotted **\$525,545** through the State Aid for Public Library Construction Program. This year the System decided to exercise its right to use a portion of the allotted funds. While under the Commissioner's Regulations the System is allowed to use up to 40% of the funds allotted to our region, **the System is requesting 9% of the available funds** for the project to renovate the ground floor of the MHLS office building in order to upgrade the lavatories to be ADA compliant. After the System award there is **\$475,699 available to award to member library applicants**.

Award Recommendation Process

The Incentives Committee of the MHLS Board is tasked with recommended award amounts to the full MHLS Board. In the first quarter of this year the Committee reviewed their process and again considered the results of a System wide survey conducted in 2014 to evaluate member perception of the System's administration of this grant program. After a review of the feedback the committee:

- 1) **Agreed to recommend to the MHLS Board the following funding priorities** *(which were approved at the March 2015 meeting of the MHLS Board)*:
 - **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) and follow the "Useful Life Energy Standards" set by the Incentives Committee whenever applicable.
- 2) **Agreed to using the following criteria in ranking applications:**
 - i) Projects meeting one or more funding priorities;
 - ii) Impact of the project on the community and region based on the impact statement submitted with the application. The Committee directly reviewed an applicants' "Impact of Project" statement from the online application.

As a result of this process, the Committee met on Thursday, August 27th to prioritize member library applications. In attendance at this meeting: Caroline Profera, Chair; Janet Schnitzer; Ric Swierat; Camilla Von Bergen; Myrna Sameth; MHLS Staff: Tom Sloan, Executive Director & Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability. **The Committee submits the following award recommendations for member**

Member Library Project Descriptions & Recommended Award Amounts

libraries and the Mid-Hudson Library System in the next funding cycle:

Library	Project Description	Amount Requested	Recommended Award Amount
Reed Memorial Library (Carmel)	Natural gas conversion, pipe insulation and generator installation will conserve energy, reduce heating costs, and improve usability of library space.	\$11,500	\$5,980
Catskill Public Library	To enhance the experience of visitors and staff with consistent building temperatures while reducing energy use and costs.	\$59,325**	\$30,849
Claverack Library	The Library is expanding by renovating and repurposing a former firehouse next door as per the board-approved, prioritized facility plan.	\$150,000**	\$78,000
Desmond-Fish Library (Garrison)	The goal of this project is to renovate storage space into a secure Computer Lab for digital literacy programs and use by community groups.	\$62,688	\$32,598
Hudson Area Association Library	This project will support the fabrication and installation of custom millwork for the library's three ADA accessible single-user/family restrooms.	\$7,125**	\$2,565
Kinderhook Memorial Library	The project adds 450 square feet of usable space to the building and supplements areas of wireless access for portable technology within the building.	\$115,857	\$60,246
Kingston Library	Project involves renovation of 2 nd floor children's room including new furnishings, carpet, and expansion into a currently underused corridor.	\$239,915**	\$172,739
Olive Free Library	Purchase and install emergency generator, update electrical panels, consolidate electrical service, and install transfer switches and utility pole.	\$8,125	\$4,225
Plattekill Library	This project is site acquisition of 1.5 acres for \$185,000.00.	\$90,000	\$46,800
Putnam Valley Free Library	Replacement of a pedestrian bridge over the Oscawana Brook which provides access to the Library and has been determined to be structurally deficit.	\$73,973	\$26,630
Morton Memorial Library & Community House (Rhinecliff)	Morton Memorial Library and Community House rehabilitation for expanded services and energy conservation.	\$28,976	\$15,068
Mid-Hudson Library System	MHLS Office Building: Renovation of existing ground floor lobby and lavatory areas. Includes upgrading lavatories to be ADA compliant, plumbing fixtures, finishes, ductwork, lighting and electrical work.	\$99,000	\$49,845
			\$525,545.00

**Please note the state grant program has a minimum allowable award amount of \$2,500*

***Meets the MHLS definition for an economically disadvantaged community thereby decreasing their match requirement*

