

MHLS Board Priorities for Funding

To be considered for funding a project must:

1. **Meet eligibility requirements as defined in NYCRR Title 8 – Education §90.12**
[http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_regs/9012.htm]
2. **Be part of the library's board approved, prioritized facility plan** which is reported to MHLS through the Construction Needs Action Memo issued annually in April. If a library is breaking a large project into phases this must be itemized with a timeline within the facility plan, and
3. **Provide for at least one of the following outcomes (points are awarded for each outcome the project addresses, so, 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., compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); improved broadband; optimization of 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 MHLS board's ranking, a "professional's recommendation" will, at least, include the results of an Energy Audit **by a qualified professional and/or professionally qualified organization**. Libraries are expected to comply with the MHLS *'Useful life energy conservation standards'* for the purposes of this grant; and/or
 - **Disaster recovery** in the context of a substantial loss of access to library services due to a low probability-high consequence event(s) (e.g., fire, flood). This will apply to libraries: (1) located within a declared state or federal disaster area, or (2) not located within a declared disaster area if sufficient evidence documents a low probability-high consequence event resulted in substantial loss of access to library services. Within the grant narrative the library must adequately describe: a) length of forewarning; b) magnitude of impact; and c) duration of impact, meaning lack of access by the public to library services; and/or
 - **Leadership in sustainable design** in the context of pursuit of certification through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program (LEED); Green Globes; Living Building Challenge; Energy Star; Net Zero Energy Building Certification and/or Passive House.

MHLS Economically Disadvantaged Community Definition

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. A library would need to fall within one of the three definitions listed in order to qualify for the lower match requirement.

Definition:

- (1) a political subdivision¹ within which **15 percent** or more of the population is living in poverty as shown on the latest federal census.

- (2) a public school district² 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.

¹ If your library's chartered service area spans multiple towns please use the weighted average by population.

² If your library's chartered service area spans multiple school districts please use the weighted average by population.