

## Incentives Committee Meeting

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 | 1:30pm

1) Roll Call

- ✓ Richard Swierat, Chair (D)
- ✓ Stuart Auchincloss (U)
- ✓ Sharon Davis (C)
- ✓ Priscilla Goldfarb (P)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- ✓ Mark Wilson (ex officio) (C)
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- ✓ Casey Conlin, MHLS (Staff Liaison)

2) **Call to Order:** Mr. Swierat, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order

3) **Chair's Comments:** Mr. Swierat thanked the committee members for their continuing service; noted that the Governor has proposed significantly less funding for the State Aid for Library Construction program than last year; and noted the continued need to advocate for a restoration of the construction aid to 2018 levels.

4) **State Aid for Library Construction Program:**

- a) Staff provided an overview of the program, the role of the Committee and MHLS Board and anticipated timeline for the grant program.
  - i) It was noted that this is a competitive grant program which necessitates the need for a process to prioritize applications for these funds.
- b) The Committee reviewed the list of Funding Priorities to be used if there are more requests for these funds than are allocated to MHLS.
  - i) There was a discussion related to the Energy Conservation point. The Committee continues to feel that an energy audit done by a professional in the field of energy conservation is important. The Committee decided to add on to the description of the point used last year and allow libraries who are currently engaged in the pursuit of the New York Library Association's Sustainable Library Certification Program, which mandates an energy audit be conducted, be awarded this point as well.
    - (1) **BOARD ACTION ITEM:** The Committee's recommendations for the 2019-2020 funding priorities are attached to this report and will be an action item at the March 2019 Board meeting.
  - ii) There was an extensive discussion regarding the definition of an "economically disadvantaged community" and the metrics used to craft that definition. This definition

allows impacted libraries to fall under the reduced match option in the grant program. Casey provided an initial review of the metrics. The Committee reviewed the current policy, refreshed data related to the definition and agreed to keep it as it currently reads. However, the Committee will evaluate the policy and data during the 2019 grant cycle to evaluate its relevance and relationship to needs and the impact on member libraries.

(1) **BOARD ACTION ITEM:** The Committee recommendation for the definition of an “economically disadvantaged community” in the Mid-Hudson Library System is to be an action item at the March 2019 Board meeting.

iii) The plan for the cultivation and review of applications was reviewed and accepted, including the schedule.

iv) The Conflict of Interest policy was reviewed. No sitting committee members fall into a conflict of interest situation this year as none of the committee members currently serve on a member library board of trustees.

#### 5) Mileage Equalization Grant Program

a) The Committee discussed the purpose and use of the program.

b) The Committee asked for additional information to be provided at their next meeting regarding use of the program by member libraries.

#### 6) NYLA Conference Attendance Grants

a) This is the first year that this grant program is in the MHLS Budget as part of the stakeholder approved MHLS Action Plan.

b) This committee has been designated to review requests for the use of these funds.

c) The committee requested that staff draft a process for the review and ranking of applicants prior to their June meeting.

#### 7) 2019 Committee Meeting Schedule

a) June – review NYLA Conference Attendance Grant applications

b) Late August/Early September – Review of State Aid for Library Construction applications

8) **Public Comment:** None.

9) **Other Items:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm