

# Incentives Committee

March 3, 2023

## 1. Roll Call

- ✓ Stuart Auchincloss, Chair (U)
- ✓ Carla Taylor (P)
- ✓ Rajene Hardeman (D)
- ✓ Jill Leinung (C)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- ✓ Barry Ramage (D) (ex officio)
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- ✓ Laura Crisci (Staff Liaison)

2. The Committee reviewed its charge and recommended no changes. “Responsible for the continuing review of the MHLS grants program. Presents its recommendations for the following year's grants program to the board prior to the review of the next year's budget.”

## 3. Review of the State Aid for Library Construction Program

- a. Executive Director Aldrich provided an overview of the program, application process, and the roles of the MHLS Staff, Incentives Committee and MHLS Board. The Committee recommends no changes to the application review process for 2023.
- b. 2023 Funding Priorities
  - i. **ACTION:** Rajene Hardeman moved, and Mary Linda Todd seconded a motion to recommend that participation in the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program be more clearly incentivized by removing that item from the third priority related to just energy conservation and adding it to the fifth priority which is proposed to be reclassified as “Leadership in sustainable operations and design.” (attached). The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Review of definition of an “economically disadvantaged community” in the Mid-Hudson Library System:
  - i. **ACTION:** Carla Taylor moved, and Jill Leinung seconded a motion to recommend no change to the 2022 adopted definition for 2023: A political subdivision within which the percentage of the population living in poverty is equal to or greater than the New York State average as demonstrated by federal Census data. The motion passed unanimously.

4. The Committee reviewed the policy on conflict of interest as it applies to the work of the committee on the State Aid for Library Construction Program. The long-standing practice has been if a committee member also serves on the board of a library that applies for the program that they need to recuse themselves from the entire review process.

5. The Committee reviewed the [Mileage Equalization Program](#) and recommends no changes.

6. The Committee reviewed the MHLS New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference Scholarships.
  - a. Background: This program has been offered twice, in 2019 and 2022. Funds have been allocated for this program in 2023 (\$2,500). The Committee directed staff to reserve announcement of this opportunity until we know the final outcome of the NYS budget since our budget assumptions were based on receiving at least what was received last year.
    - i. Matching grants between \$250-\$500 were provided, up to a total allocation of \$2,500
    - ii. Eligible: new library director or new library staff member (3 years or less)
    - iii. Reimbursement for conference registration fee, travel to and from the conference, and/or accommodations and per diem costs.
  - b. The Committee directed the staff to share the scoring process for applications used in 2019 and to seek input from the committee and the System Services Advisory Committee on this process prior to the deadline for this opportunity.