

Incentives Committee

August 31, 2021

Agenda

1. Roll Call

- ✓ Stuart Auchincloss, Chair (U)
- ✓ Priscilla Goldfarb (P)
- ✓ Rajene Hardeman (D)
- ✓ Jill Leinung (C)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- ✓ Ric Swierat (D) ex officio
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- ✓ Casey Conlin (Staff Liaison)

2. Chair's Comments: Mr. Auchincloss noted:

- a. Committee member Jill Leinung will recuse herself for the review of her local library's construction application as she serves on the board of this library.
- b. More libraries are applying for energy conservation related projects
- c. Encouraged all committee members to continue to help advocate for the federal [Build America's Libraries Act](#)

3. Review of the process for Construction Grant Award Recommendations:

- a. Ms. Aldrich provided a review of the process including the use of both the board-approved priorities to award points to the applications in order to calculate weighted award amounts and the designation of libraries serving economically disadvantaged communities to fund those libraries at a higher level
- b. Ms. Aldrich and Mr. Swierat reported on the repeated complaint of one member library whose project was not fully funded in 2018. The committee reviewed and confirmed its strategy (item 3.a. above) for fairly and equitably distributing the limited state construction funds among all the libraries with fundable projects. This topic is revisited annually at the first meeting of the year of the committee.

4. Review and Ranking of the System and Member Library Construction Grant Applications:

- a. The Committee reviewed the MHLS application for the Delivery Services area renovation. The summary of the application is attached to this report.
 - i. **ACTION:** Ms. Goldfarb moved, and Ms. Hardeman seconded a motion to recommend that the MHLS Board approve a funding recommendation at 50% of the total project cost. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. The Committee reviewed and ranked fourteen (14) member library applications and directed MHLS staff to produce the recommended award amounts using the agreed upon formula. The award recommendations are attached to this report for the board's consideration.
 - i. **ACTION:** The Incentives Committee recommends that the MHLS Board approve the recommended award amounts presented in the attached document for the 2021-2022 State Aid for Library Construction Program.

5. **Guidance on Assignment of Additional Funds:** The Committee directed MHLS Staff to reallocate any funds a) turned down by members recommended for funding or b) offered by NYS in addition to MHLS' allocation as equitably as possible across all libraries recommended for funding.

6. **Debrief/Suggestions for 2022 Process:** The Committee identified the following topics to examine and discuss in the first quarter of 2022:
 - a. Ensure safety is explicitly tied to the Accessibility point
 - b. Clarify the incentive to be enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program. It was suggested this be combined with the Leadership in Sustainable Design point or be a point on its own.
 - c. Consider taking into account the history of member libraries' grant awards and project management success.

7. **Metro IAF Report:** Thanks to an introduction by Incentives Committee Chair Stuart Auchincloss MHLS is now partnering with [Metro IAF](#) to enable member libraries to access a new funding source from NYSERDA to help decarbonize facilities. Mr. Conlin provided an update on member libraries identified for energy audits and funds for converting to air source heat pumps and to the solar leasing program through Metro IAF.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.