



LSTA

in Massachusetts

Planning for an LSTA Direct Grant during COVID-19

What the funding is for

The purpose of these grants is to give libraries the ability to create new or enhanced services and programs. Funding cannot be used for construction or to replace local funds.

Focus on community needs

Projects should address an ongoing need in the community. While that might include a COVID-exposed problem, these grants are not aimed at addressing needs that are solely related to COVID issues.

Plan for the current circumstances

Libraries should have the ability to carry out their project under the present COVID restrictions. While projects can pivot to in-person programming and services if circumstances allow, libraries should not propose projects based on the assumption that pre COVID-19 levels of library programming will be possible.

Think about your bandwidth

If you are thinking of applying, consider your current staffing and their available time. Carrying out a grant takes a fair amount of time, usually more than you anticipate.

Remain certified

Public libraries must be and remain certified in the State Aid program to be eligible. If your library loses certification this spring, you will no longer be eligible for the grant round.

There's always next year

The LSTA Direct Grants to Libraries is a long-standing program at the MBLC that has been offered annually for decades. We have no plans to change that and look forward to working with your library when the time is right for you.



Questions? contact Lyndsay.Forbes@mass.gov

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