

Incentives Committee

Thursday, September 5, 2024 | 10:00am

1. Roll Call

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

2. **Chair's Comments:** Chair Rajene Hardeman noted that far more has been requested through the State Aid for Library Construction Program by member libraries (\$2,408,119) than our system has been allocated (\$1,607,377)
3. The Committee reviewed the process for State Aid for Library Construction Program Award Recommendations including the 2024 MHLS Board Priorities for Funding.
4. The Committee reviewed the project abstract, descriptions, and impact statements of the 15 member library applications. Committee discussion resulted in consensus on points to award to each application based on the 2024 Board Priorities for Funding. These points were used in the formula to create the recommended award amounts show in the attachment to this report.
- a. **ACTION:** The Committee recommends the board's approval of the recommended award amounts.
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 2025 Process:**
- a. MHLS staff will research potential alternatives to the current definition of an "economically disadvantaged community," including the use of the new environmental justice zones in NYS.
 - b. Review current language for the "access" point to ensure safety is clearly an attribute of access.
 - c. Include clear indications of whether or not a library has had an energy audit related to the project they are applying for conducted and if they are enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program.
7. **Other:** As this is Mary Linda Todd's last year on the MHLS board, she was thanked profusely for her years of service on this Committee. Linda's expertise from her years of administering the State Aid for Library Program at the State Library has greatly informed our process and vetting of applications over the years, greatly enhancing our ability to connect libraries with these funds in a fair and objective manner.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.