

Incentives Committee

Thursday, September 4, 2025 | 10:00am

1. Roll Call

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| ✓ Carla Taylor, Chair (P) | ☐ Barry Ramage (D) (ex officio) |
| ✓ Leslie Gerber (U) | ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison) |
| ☐ Rajene Hardeman (D) | ✓ Laura Crisci (Staff Liaison) |
| ✓ Charles Kutcher (G) | |
| ✓ Jill Leinung (C) | |

2. The Committee reviewed the process for State Aid for Library Construction Program (SALC) Award Recommendations including the 2025 MHLS Board Priorities for Funding.
3. **ACTION:** The Committee reviewed the MHLS Application (attached to this report) for SALC funding this year. Chair Carla Taylor moved and Jill Leinung seconded a recommendation that the MHLS Board approve the project for full funding under the parameters of SALC. The motion passed unanimously.
4. The Committee reviewed the project abstract, description, and impact statements of the libraries who applied for SALC this year. Committee discussion resulted in consensus on points to award each application based on the 2025 Board Priorities for Funding. These points were used in the formula to create the recommended award amounts shown in the attachment to this report.
 - a. **ACTION:** The Committee recommends that the board approve the recommended award amounts.
5. Guidance on Assignment of Additional Funds: The Committee directed MHLS Staff to reallocate any funds a) turned down by member libraries who were 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 2026 Process: For next year, it is suggested that the 2026 MHLS Incentives Committee:
 - a. Review the Energy Conservation priority description in light of challenges libraries are reporting in getting an energy audit done at a no or low cost from NYSERDA.
 - i. MHLS Staff will pursue a discussion with NYSERDA to discuss association and public library eligibility for their energy audit subsidization program.
 - b. Add "safety" within the accessibility priority description
 - c. Continue to require that this annual meeting to debate the applications be held in person

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.