

2015-2016 LSTA Annual Program Plan

Important Dates	
September 5, 2014	Annual Program Plan posted EZ Grant Guidelines and Applications posted Project Grant Guidelines posted Letter of Intent Application posted NC Cardinal Guidelines and Application posted
November 3, 2014	Letter of Intent (LOI) Applications due NC Cardinal Applications due
December 12, 2014	Letter of Intent applicants notified NC Cardinal applicants notified Project Grant Applications posted
February 27, 2015	Applications Due All EZ Grants and Project Grants
June 3, 2015	Grant awards announced at < http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ld/grants/lsta.html >

The 2015-2016 grant programs outlined in this document are aligned with the State Library of North Carolina's [Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan 2013-2017](#) and its goals.

Summary of Goals

The State Library of North Carolina's *Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan for 2013-2017* contains four goals. Each of the goals listed below is related to one or more of the eight LSTA purposes, is based on identified need, and strives toward excellence and equity in North Carolina's libraries.

1. Partnerships and Collaboration

North Carolina libraries will partner with each other, with businesses, and with other organizations to extend their reach and enhance their capacity.

2. Continuing Education

North Carolina library staff will have the necessary planning and learning opportunities that enable them to provide exceptional library programs, services, and resources.

3. Literacy and Lifelong Learning

North Carolina libraries will equip users for success in life, school, and work through library programs and services that support literacy and lifelong learning.

4. Access, Digitization, and Preservation

North Carolina libraries will expand access to information resources by strengthening, sharing, digitizing and preserving our valuable and unique collections.

EZ Grants – Letter of Intent (LOI) **Not** Required

EZ Grants have a simplified application process and are used for single year projects with clearly defined purposes and outcomes. The LSTA Advisory Committee sets criteria for each EZ Grant as part of the Annual Program Plan. State Library staff review EZ Grant applications and determine funding decisions based on those criteria. Applicants have the opportunity to appeal funding decisions to the LSTA Advisory Committee, except in the EZ Innovation category. EZ Grants do not require a Letter of Intent.

Libraries eligible to apply are public libraries, community college libraries, UNC libraries, and private academic libraries (NCICU). Eligible partners include school libraries, other libraries, and non-library organizations.

The **minimum** amount that may be requested for all EZ Grant categories is \$5,000.

Grant Category	Match	Maximum
EZ Digitization* Grants to increase the local library’s capacity to digitize selected materials from their genealogy, local history, or other collections in order to make them available online.	10% w/a partner 25% single library	\$25,000
EZ Innovation Grants to foster innovation in North Carolina libraries to extend their reach and enhance their capacity through creative experimentation and new or different approaches.	none	\$25,000
EZ Literacy & Lifelong Learning Grants to advance literacy and lifelong learning through projects that expand patrons’ ability to read, write, and interact across a range of platforms, tools, and media; and/or projects that promote continuous learning.	10% w/a partner 25% single library	\$50,000
EZ Planning Grants to support consulting assistance in planning for use of existing space to provide or expand services for library users; planning for technology; or project planning prior to applying for an LSTA Project Grant.	none	\$50,000

Project Grants – Letter of Intent (LOI) Required

Project Grants have a two-step process that requires a preliminary Letter of Intent (LOI) Application. These grants are for more complex projects that may be single or multi-year and are funded at a higher level than EZ Grants. The LSTA Advisory Committee sets criteria for each Project Grant as part of the Annual Program Plan. The LSTA Advisory Committee reviews the Letters of Intent and makes recommendations based on those criteria following preliminary review by State Library staff and, in some instances, peer reviewers. If a library's LOI is approved, a full application may be submitted. State Library staff and peer reviewers evaluate full grant applications. The LSTA Advisory Committee reviews the applications and reviewers' ratings prior to making funding recommendations to the State Librarian.

Libraries eligible to apply are public libraries, community college libraries, UNC libraries, and private academic libraries (NCICU). Eligible partners include school libraries, other libraries, and non-library organizations.

The **minimum** amount that may be requested for all Project Grant categories is \$50,000; the **maximum** amount is \$100,000.

Grant Category	Match
Access & Digitization* Grants to increase access to, and use of, North Carolina's library holdings.	10%
Literacy & Lifelong Learning Grants to advance literacy and lifelong learning through projects that expand patrons' ability to read, write, and interact across a range of platforms, tools, and media; and/or projects that promote continuous learning.	10% w/a partner 25% single library

*The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (NCDHC) is a statewide digitization and digital publishing program housed in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is supported by the State Library with LSTA funds. The NCDHC works with cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina to digitize and publish historic materials online. Support from the State Library enables the NCDHC to offer these services at no cost to participating libraries.

Prospective applicants should consider whether the Digital Heritage Center can help them achieve their project goals. Some applicants may find that working cooperatively with the Center is more efficient than applying for and managing an LSTA grant. For further information, see <<http://www.digitalnc.org>> or contact the NCDHC at <digitalnc@unc.edu> or 919-962-4836.