

LSTA FAQs 2013-2014

- Will there be Mid-year Planning Grants?
There are no Mid-year Planning Grants.
- I can't find the Basic Equipment Grants, how can I purchase computers?
Computers are an allowable purchase in two EZ Grant categories; Collaboration & Innovation and Literacy & Lifelong Learning. In both categories, equipment purchases need to be part of a larger project and must be in alignment with the stated grant purpose.

The goals in the Five-Year Plan will be in place through 2017 so there won't be any large changes for several years. It's my opinion that you should consider both. You could fit servers and computers into literacy and lifelong learning by emphasizing how those components support literacy and lifelong learning for your library users. However, there may be another funding source that simply supports equipment purchases without connecting it to a larger goal.

- I do not see the EZ Collection Development Grant. Has this grant been discontinued or is it listed under another name?
You are correct that the Collection Development Grant is no longer an EZ Grant category. However, library materials are allowable in two of the EZ Grant programs when they are aligned with the stated purpose. Take a look at the Guidelines document for the EZ Collaboration & Innovation and EZ Literacy & Lifelong Learning grants to see if one of them is a good fit for your library and your users.
- Would my school partner with our individual library to get books or with the regional library? Would we both receive funds?
As a partner with the public library – they will be the one to submit the grant application. Should the grant be selected for funding, the grant agreement will be with the public library and they will be the fiscal agent – which means all expenditures and reimbursements will be handled by them. This is great news for the school libraries since they will be able to help shape the project and contribute to the application, but they won't have to deal with most of the paperwork and financial responsibilities.

If the County Library is the primary one that serves your school population, it makes sense to start the conversation with them. They will need the support of the regional director for the system because that director is the one who will have to sign the grant application (and grant agreement) and each library system can only submit one application per grant category.

- Are public school districts or individual public school libraries eligible to apply this year?
Public school districts and individual public school libraries are eligible as partners this year; they are not eligible to apply on their own. The good news about this is all the grant categories are available for consideration and they can still help shape the project and contribute to the application, but they won't have the burden of most of the paperwork and financial responsibilities.
- What does this new program mean for my library?
Libraries have new opportunities, much broader than previous programs that were so specific.
- Can this grant fund a combination of technology, staff, and training for staff and the public?
YES
- Will we still be able to buy equipment with LSTA funds?
YES, but it has to be part of a larger project.
- Does a library system still have to have Internet filters in place in order to qualify to apply for LSTA grants?
CIPA is a federal requirement that only applies to public and school libraries that will purchase anything that will provide access to the internet.
- What grants are available to library systems that do not have filters?
All categories are available; only expenditures public and school libraries that will purchase anything that will provide access to the internet.
- Explain more about multi-year grants.
This is an option for Project Grants only. It needs to be stated from the beginning, may be funded up to 3 years, but each year is independent. Years 2 and 3 require a Year 2 or 3 Multi-Year Grant Application, due in February. Multi-year grants require quarterly reports and will receive a mid-year monitoring visit.
- Is there a maximum of years that a single project can span?
1 year
- How many project directors can be named?
1 – a single point of contact is needed for emails and other communication.
- Are any grant categories education or Community College specific?
All categories are available to all the same library types: Public, CC, UNC, NCICU.
- Will the State Library inform other community agencies about the collaborative focus for LSTA grants, or will that be left completely in the hands of local libraries?

This communication is up to the library as part of building community relationships, etc.

- Can part of the match be in-kind staff time?
In-kind or cost share means that the cash match is reduced through documentation of the time/salary expended for existing staff working on the project. Yes, in-kind is allowable for 25% of the match on Project Grants; it is not allowable on EZ Grants.
- What is the minimum and maximum amount of funds that can be requested? Does this grant require matching funds?
EZ Grants min/max \$5,000/up to \$50,000
Project Grants min/max \$50,000/\$100,000
Match = same for both 10% w/a partner, 25% single library
- Are projects for preschool-age children or senior citizens eligible for grant funding?
Yes, as long as the project is consistent with the grant purpose.