

**LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT
STATE LIBRARY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

OVERVIEW OF GRANT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR 2006-2007

Important Dates for 2006-2007 LSTA Grant Programs	
October 4, 2005	Guidelines and Letter of Intent applications available for Project and Innovation Grants
November 21, 2005	Letters of Intent (LOI) due for Project and Innovation Grants [LOI not required for EZ category grants]
December 20, 2005	Approval of Letters of Intent announced; application forms provided to approved libraries
December 20, 2005	Guidelines and applications available for EZ Grants
February 22, 2006	ALL PROPOSALS DUE
June 12, 2006	Grant awards announced at http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/lsta.htm

Project Grants -- Letter of Intent Required

Awarded for more complex projects, grant programs in the Project Grants category have locally defined outcomes that meet the grant program criteria. Generally, Project Grants award funding at a higher level than EZ Grants. (Information about EZ Grants appears on pages 3 & 4.)

The LSTA Annual Program sets criteria for Project Grants, and the State Library invites applicants to submit Letters of Intent (LOI). The LSTA Advisory Committee reviews the Letters of Intent and makes recommendations based on those criteria following preliminary review by State Library staff. If a library's LOI is approved, then it is invited to submit a full application. State Library staff as well as peer reviewers evaluate full grant applications. The LSTA Advisory Committee reviews the applications and the reviewers' ratings and makes its funding recommendations to the State Librarian.

Below is a summary of the Project Grants for 2006-2007. These Project Grant programs require a Letter of Intent (LOI) application. LOI applications are due November 21, 2005. Full applications from approved libraries are due February 22, 2006.

GRANT PROGRAM BY TOPIC	ELIGIBLE LIBRARIES	MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST	MATCH REQUIREMENT
Innovation Grants *** NEW***			
<i>Innovation Grants</i> Innovation projects are designed to test a concept or to demonstrate new approaches or new services. An Innovation Grant must have a solid evaluation component that is integrated into every step of the project. Projects must result in formal reports that are shared with North Carolina's library community. Concepts must be discussed with State Library staff prior to submitting a Letter of Intent. Single year, or Multiyear projects allowable.	Libraries or library organizations or associations that are eligible to receive LSTA funds according to <i>Library Services & Technology Act Plan for Implementation in North Carolina 2003-2007</i> , Section III-2,3,4.	\$100,000	10% of grant amount requested

Project Grants -- Letter of Intent Required (continued)

GRANT PROGRAM BY TOPIC	ELIGIBLE LIBRARIES	MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST	MATCH REQUIREMENT
Technology / Automation			
<p>Automated System Grants Grants to local libraries to assist in purchasing new or upgraded automated library systems (including joining an existing shared system or establishing new shared library automated system consortia) or system components (hardware, software, servers) to ensure that their systems meet the Minimum Standards for Library Automation in North Carolina.</p>	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college.	\$100,000	25% of grant amount requested
<p>Internet Infrastructure Improvement Grants Grants to assure that libraries have adequate infrastructure to provide well-managed user access to the Internet and to NC LIVE resources. Potential projects: increased bandwidth capacity, hardware and software to improve network and user security, systems to manage public access to workstations and printing, special equipment for training or demonstrations (including computers for training labs).</p>	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college.	\$100,000	25% of grant amount requested
<p>NC ECHO Digitization Grants Grants to improve access to North Carolina's unique cultural holdings by helping libraries (and partners, if appropriate) create online content; prepare online finding aids; establish partnerships, and incorporate Web cataloging or metadata into digitization projects. Single year, or Multiyear projects allowable.</p>	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. State agency libraries.	\$50,000 for a single library; \$75,000 for a collaborative project	10% of grant amount requested
<p>NC ECHO Heritage Partners Grants Grants for multiyear projects to extend the use of digital technologies to broaden access to North Carolina's unique cultural collections. Projects must include a collaborative partnership with at least one non-library cultural institution, and must result in substantial online content and contextual information that highlight a topic important to North Carolina's history and culture. Applicants must have substantial experience and the ability to provide leadership in these complex projects. Applicants must have completed an LSTA Project Planning Grant (see page 4). Multiyear required.</p>	Public and academic libraries, including public, private & community college.	\$150,000 annually	10% of grant amount requested
Services / Programs			
<p>Library Outreach Services Grants [previously: Community-Centered Outreach Services Grants] Grants to support library services and programs for targeted audiences that are unserved or underserved. Services must be based on local needs assessments. Single year, or Multiyear projects allowable.</p>	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. Public school libraries.	\$50,000 annually (\$100,000 annually for multi-library collaborative projects)	Percent of grant amount requested: Year 1 - 10% Year 2 - 25% Year 3 - 50%

EZ Grants -- Letter of Intent Not Required

With a simplified application process, EZ Grants are used for programs with clearly defined purposes and outcomes. The LSTA Advisory Committee sets criteria for each EZ Grant program as part of the Annual Program. State Library staff reviews applications and determines funding decisions based on those criteria. EZ Grants do not require a Letter of Intent, and applicants have the opportunity to appeal funding decisions to the LSTA Advisory Committee.

There are two subcategories of EZ Grants:

- EZ Grants: applications for this grant category use simpler forms that require little information other than a basic description of project plans. Libraries are expected to describe plans that are consistent with grant guidelines in order to qualify for funding.
- EZ Expanded Grants: applications for this grant category require more extensive information about local needs and plans for using the funds.

Below is a summary of EZ Grants for 2006-2007. Full information on these grant programs will be released on December 20, 2005, and applications will be due on February 22, 2006.

GRANT PROGRAM BY TOPIC	ELIGIBLE LIBRARIES	MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST	MATCH REQUIREMENT
Technology / Automation			
Basic Equipment Grants Grants for computer hardware/software to ensure adequate user access to the Internet and NC LIVE resources, including workstations that provide access for people with disabilities. Allows applications for funding to replace computers for user Internet access. [Computers for training labs are funded under Internet Infrastructure Improvement Grants; see page 2.]	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. State agency libraries.	\$25,000	15% of grant amount requested
NC ECHO Digitization Starter Grants Grants for basic equipment and training to help libraries "get started" with digitization of their special collections.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. State agency libraries.	\$8,000	None
Services / Programs			
Marketing Grants Grants to aid public and academic libraries in implementing their marketing/communications plans, developed during two-part workshops offered by the State Library.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. Staff must have participated in marketing workshops.	\$25,000	10% of grant amount requested
School Library Collection Development Grants Grants to provide assistance to public school library media centers in building strong curriculum-related print book collections that are accurate, current, and attractive.	Public school libraries that have not received this grant in a prior year (2000-01 through 2005-06).	\$10,000	50% of grant amount requested (\$1 for \$2)
Strengthening Public & Academic Library Collections Grants Grants to help public and academic libraries develop or strengthen subject areas in their print collections to meet user needs.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college, that have not received this grant in a prior year (2005-06, & 2003-04 pilot).	\$10,000	50% of grant amount requested (\$1 for \$2)

EZ Grants -- Letter of Intent Not Required (continued)

GRANT PROGRAM BY TOPIC	ELIGIBLE LIBRARIES	MAXIMUM GRANT REQUEST	MATCH REQUIREMENT
Planning			
LSTA Project Planning Grants Grants to assist libraries in carrying out needs assessments and collaborative planning as phase one of an LSTA Project grant.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college; public school libraries. Libraries must qualify for the full grant program for which they would plan.	\$15,000	None
Planning Grants Grants to support consulting assistance to help ensure effective planning for general programs/services, process analysis, youth services, and facilities.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. State agency libraries.	\$15,000	None
Technology Planning Grants Grants to support consulting assistance to help ensure effective planning for technology, including planning for integrated automated library systems.	Public & academic libraries, including public, private & community college. State agency libraries.	\$20,000 (\$35,000 for multi-library collaborative projects)	None

Complete Information and Guidelines for LSTA grant programs may be found at <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/lsta.htm>>.