Applying for Library Grants

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Congress established IMLS through the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996

An independent grant-making agency, IMLS fosters leadership, innovation & lifetime learning by supporting museums & libraries

LSTA priorities

- Provide electronic linkages among and between libraries
- Link libraries electronically with educational, social, or information services
- Assist libraries in accessing information through electronic networks
- Establish consortia to share resources
- Acquire computers and telecommunications technologies
- Promote library services to the underserved and persons having difficulty using the library

Library Grants to the States

- a population-based formula
- cost sharing required
- awarded annually by IMLS

State Libraries distribute funds through:

- Statewide services and initiatives and/or
- Sub-grant competitions

Eligibility

- Public, academic, research, school and special libraries

National Leadership Grants

- Generally, up to 2 year projects

- Awards range from $15,000 to $500,000
- Cost sharing required
- $11 million available

National Leadership Grants for Libraries

Who can apply:

- Libraries, library agencies, consortia, associations, archives and institutions of higher education

Education & Training

- Attracting individuals from diverse backgrounds to librarianship & information science
- Increasing the availability of librarians with advanced skills
- Training librarians to enhance people's ability to use information effectively

Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA

- Two-year project
- $91,291
- Develop a national model for teaching librarians in small libraries, how to accommodate new technologies in their building renovation project plans.

Preservation or Digitization

- Address the challenges of preserving and archiving digital media
- Develop standards, techniques, and models for digital image management
- Preserve and enhance access to unique library resources

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

- One-year project
- $178,628
- 1,000 documents and visual images relating to Native Americans of the Southeast will be digitized and made available through a Web site

Research & Demonstration

St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis, MO

- $208,550
- Partnering with Baltimore, Birmingham, Phoenix, and Seattle, to refine a case-study methodology to communicate the economic benefits of large public libraries services and to estimate the direct monetary return on annual taxpayer investment.

Eastern Iowa Community College District, Davenport, Iowa

- Two-year project
- $249,951
- Develop ATEEL - Advanced Technology Environmental Education Library and a taxonomy of environmental technology descriptive metadata.

National Leadership Grants for Library & Museum Collaborations

Demonstrate leadership in the education of lifelong learners with emphasis on:

- using technology
- enhancing education
- serving the community

Museum & Library Collaboration

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

- Two-year project
- $224,076
- Partnership with the Kansas State Historical Society. Digitize primary resources from the Civil War era and develop curriculum units.

Your NLG proposal must...

- Creatively address issues of *national* concern
- Provide a *model* for other organizations to adopt
- Be designed using *efficient and effective methods* to address a problem
- Provide evidence that the activities can be successfully completed
- Explain how the project's benefits will continue beyond the grant period

Don't forget evaluation

- Use an assessment method that will describe clear and measurable project outcomes, findings or products
- Outcome-based evaluation is encouraged, whenever appropriate
- Dissemination

  - Make the results, products or benefits understandable to a broad audience
  - It's required so include it in the budget

Projects Using Technology

- Technical Knowledge

  - Exhibits knowledge of best practices
  - Employs the most promising, innovative or appropriate technologies

- Information Access

- Communicates the increased availability of electronic access - Maintains electronic access after Federal funding ends

The Project Objective Statement

- What is the project?
- Who is the targeted population?
- Why is this project important?
- How long will the project take?

Your NLG proposal must...

- Explain how the money, personnel, facilities, equipment, and supplies will be managed
- Show efficient use of funds
- Cover all resources needed for the project
- List only items related to project activities
- Show the applicant's commitment to the project through cost sharing

NLG Grants Applications

- Face Sheet
- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion
- Project Budget
- Organizational Profile
- Assurance/Certification
- Attachments (resumes, etc.)

Some Tips:

- Create a wish list
- Keep your resume up-to-date
- Get a partner/co-author
- Think outside the box
- Start thinking, planning, writing now

Once you've started...

- Read and follow the guidelines
- Begin with an end in mind
- Double check your math
- Ask someone not familiar with the proposal to read the application and describe the project to you

Give yourself enough time to:

- obtain required signatures
- gather supporting documents, indirect cost agreement, resumes, and other attachments.

Application Deadlines

February 1

- Education and Training
- Research and Demonstration
- Preservation and Digitization

April 1

- Library and Museum Collaboration

Applications must be *postmarked* no later than the application deadline.

Retain proof that you mailed the application before the deadline.

Award Announcement Dates

July 15

- Education and Training

September 15

- Research and Demonstration
- Preservation and Digitization
- Library and Museum Collaboration

Please visit our Web site:

http://www.imls.gov