

**Washington State Library
Issue Update: Continuing Education Grants
September 2011**

ISSUE:

The focus of the Washington State Library Continuing Education (CE) grant program has broadened as a result of 2010 Congressional re-authorization of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA funds our CE grant program; therefore all grant awards must be in compliance with LSTA including the Grants to States purposes as noted in section 9141 of the legislation.

However, along with the broadening of the legislation, we are faced with a tough economy that has affected both the Washington State Library (WSL) and the LSTA funding distributed by WSL. This will continue to affect WSL's ability to support some types of training through CE grants.

Thanks to re-authorization (#3 of the revised LSTA priorities), WSL will be able to fund the following activities again:

- Applications from and training for trustees, managers and supervisors—Training related to the improvement of management or supervisory skills or improvement of library operations are now allowed if benefit to the library's customers can be shown.

Activities that will not be funded by CE Grants because of IMLS guidance and budget limitations are:

- Activities that do not lead to the development and delivery of more effective and efficient programs and services to the end user, i.e., the library's customers. Applications for trainings and other CE events need to show how the training will **benefit** the customer. The benefit to the end user is still a major criterion for CE Grants.
- Attendance at general library conferences (WLA, WLMA, WALE, ALA, PLA, PNLA, ACRL, IFLA, etc.) The budget for CE Grants is not able to sustain funding for general library conferences. Furthermore, showing direct impact on customers from attendance at general conferences is problematic.

WSL will fund allowable costs for expenses associated with attending a pre-conference of a general library conference if the ***pre-conference is eligible for a CE Grant on its own merit.***

LSTA PRIORITIES

These are the sections of the LSTA purposes against which CE grant applications will be reviewed:

- 1) Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and digital literacy skills;
- 2) Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improved coordination among and between libraries and entities for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;

- 3) Provide training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership, and advance the delivery of library and information services;
- 4) Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations;
- 5) Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;
- 6) Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children (from birth through age 17) from families with incomes below the poverty line; and
- 7) Develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks.

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