

Public Library Trustee grants

Washington State Library (WSL) is adding a component to the [Professional Development](#) grants for board training. This will allow public libraries to hire trainers or facilitators to conduct trustee training. These grants would support training to address the board's needs conveniently at their local venues and on their schedules.

- These grants do not fund individual trustee training; the intent is that trustees train together as a board.
- The board must be the legally constituted board of a Washington public library established as per the [Revised Code of Washington](#).
- Training could be part of a regular board meeting or a workshop session.
- These grants are not for training of Friends of the Libraries Boards or library foundation boards. Such training is outside of the purposes of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as defined by Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

WSL will give preference to cooperative, multi-library board projects. For example, two library boards from different libraries could share training. In this case, the application would come from the sponsoring library, the match requirement would be made by the sponsoring library, and the grant reimbursement would go to that library. Libraries can arrange to share costs between (among) themselves if desired.

These grants are subject to the same rules as other Professional Development grants:

- The library applies and is reimbursed; not individuals.
- There is a maximum amount awarded per library per calendar year: \$3000.
- The applicant library is required to provide a 25% match for the allowable costs, which can be waived if the library serves a population of less than 5,000.

WSL has budgeted \$15,000 for the initial pilot project for these grants.

Possible training topics:

- Working together and evaluating your board
- Understanding the library's budget and budget cycle
- Taxation or levy lid lifts – law and process
- Annexation – law and process
- Working with and evaluating the library director
- Parliamentary procedure
- Working with media, serving as a spokesperson for the board, public speaking

[Application to bring professional training to public library boards.](#)