

## LCW Proposal Process

During the transition from LSCA to LSTA, the use and focus of advisory committees changed. WSACL was originally formed to assist in implementation of LSCA and was focused largely on the needs of public libraries. LSTA resulted in the expansion of the scope of federal library funding to more fully include all types of libraries and within Washington state resulted in a re-configuration of WSACL to better meet this expanded focus. The advisory committee was renamed the Library Council of Washington. The LCW was composed of representatives of two-year and four-year academic libraries, public libraries serving populations over 100,000 and those serving less than 100,000, special libraries, and K-12 school libraries. In addition to representation by library type, members also represented areas of expertise. The areas of expertise represented were related to information technology, rural library service, the disadvantaged, and cultural diversity. Two ex-officio members represent the WSL/LSTA program and the iSchool Library and information science education. During the second year of its operation, LCW developed a proposal process to select activities to be implemented during the following federal fiscal year.

The LCW proposal process is designed to solicit input from the Washington library community that will assist in identifying broad priorities and initiatives for the use of federal LSTA funds to meet the statewide and regional needs and opportunities of the library community. Proposals for the use of LSTA funding have included statewide initiatives targeted at specific needs, initiatives to take advantage of emerging technology or other opportunities, and initiatives that targeted a specific segment of the Washington library community and their customers. Proposals have ranged from technical assistance to the development of services and collaborative efforts to competitive grant programs. Typically, projects have been from one to four years long.

In addition to proposals conforming to the LSTA Five-Year Plan, LCW used the following six criteria for the review and selection of proposals:

1. Provides direct results to patrons;
2. Promotes use of libraries and information;
3. Promotes access to libraries;
4. Enhances visibility and public understanding of the value of libraries;
5. Promotes innovation for libraries; and
6. Encourages collaboration among libraries, across levels, and/or with other agencies and organizations. (To encourage collaborative efforts, this criteria will be given strong consideration by LCW.)

During the first three years of the proposal process, fifteen to twenty proposals have been received each year. Library staff, members of the LCW, and WSL staff have developed these proposals. Most proposals have additional sponsors from staff in other libraries. Additional sponsors may also come from partnering community organizations and agencies. This is a competitive process in the sense that there is no guarantee that any proposal will be awarded funding. Ten to fifteen proposals have typically been approved for implementation annually although several are continuation of projects that were funded in the previous year. Projects are typically approved in September prior to the start of the federal fiscal year in which the project is to begin. Ideally projects would begin in October at the start of the new federal fiscal year. Most often, federal funds are received three to four months after the start of the federal fiscal year in a December/January timeframe.

The following projects were implemented during the time period covered by LSTA or are in-progress:

Each project is listed by program title and the federal fiscal year in which funding was received.

1. Bibliostat Connect Software Purchase: 1998
2. Branch Migration: 2000
3. Community College Conspectus: 1998
4. Connectivity: 1998, 1999, 2000
5. Consumer Information: 1999
6. Continuing Education Grants: 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002
7. Digitization (Digital Images): 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
8. Early Learning (Children's): 2000, 2001, 2002
9. Electronic Reference Workshops: 2000
10. Federal program administration: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
11. Information Literacy: 2000, 2001, 2002
12. Information Technology Literacy: 2000
13. Information Technology Support: 2000
14. Information Technology Training: 2001
15. Institutional Materials and Equipment: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
16. IT Literacy: 1999
17. IT Operations: 1999
18. K-12: 2000, 2002
19. Library Information Technology Working Group (LITWG): 2002
20. Reference Performance Training: 2000, 2001
21. Satellite Project: 1999
22. Serving Culturally Diverse Populations (Diversity): 2000, 2001, 2002
23. Small or Rural Public, Tribal, and School Libraries Technology Institute (OpenBook): 2001
24. Special Populations: The Underserved: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
25. Special Populations: The Unserved: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
26. SDL: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
27. Statewide Plan: 2000, 2001
28. Technology Support for Connectivity: 1999, 2000
29. Training: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002
30. Virtual Library: 1999
31. Virtual Reference Service: 2001, 2002
32. Washington Talking Book and Braille Library: 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

An overview of these projects and the amount of funding associated with each is found in the accompanying LSTA Five-Year Evaluation Report. The Evaluation Report provides more in-depth analysis of two of these projects, the Connectivity project and the SDL project.