

To: Networking Task Force
From: Sue Jackson, Montana State Library
Re: Update on Grant Programs
Date: January 24, 2007

1. Gates Public Access Computer-Hardware Upgrade Grant (PAC-HUG) Project

In 2006, all public and branch libraries were invited to participate in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's PAC-HUG project to replace/upgrade/add computers used by the public to access electronic resources. Based on the age of existing PACs (as reported in the online TechAtlas inventory completed by each library in December 2005), libraries qualified for different amounts of grant funds in varying grant categories. Some PAC-HUG projects had to be completed in 2006 and some libraries were awarded funds for use to sustain public access computing through 2008.

A base amount of \$1,145 was awarded for each computer to be purchased as part of the project. Some libraries were able to purchase equipment for less than this amount and then could use the balance for additional computers or related costs. The total PAC-HUG budget is \$295,500 and the projection is for at least 258 computers to be purchased across the state.

To date:

\$170,128 has been spent

162 PACs have been purchased/installed in 65 Montana public & branch libraries

2. Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) 2007 grant award

The amount of the 2007 LSTA grant award (for the period 10/1/06-9/30/08) will not be known until the federal budget is finalized. Currently, the State Library has received a partial 2007 award of \$381,083 to make it possible for projects and personnel to continue until the official award is made. The State Library Commission will consider a budget for 2007 LSTA projects at its February meeting, though it may only be able to approve an estimated budget if the actual award amount is still unknown. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that administers the LSTA grant program, uses data and anecdotes from annual state program reports received from state libraries to demonstrate to members of Congress the local benefit of LSTA funds and to encourage them to consider increasing the LSTA budget.

3. Five-year LSTA evaluation

Every five years, the State Library is required by IMLS to conduct a formal evaluation of its LSTA program. An RFP for the evaluation was issued in October and Johnson & Johnson Consulting from Waunakee, Wisconsin was selected. Montana librarians know Deborah Wilcox Johnson through the College of DuPage teleconference series (she is a frequent presenter) and from the trustee workshop she did in Missoula on evaluation of library services and staff in November 2005.

The evaluation now being done will cover Montana's 2002-2007 five-year plan and the use of LSTA funds to meet the goals and objectives stated in that plan. The two areas of focus will be the Library Development Division's training program and the Talking Book Library's (TBL) patron services.

Data is being collected by electronic surveys completed by librarians and TBL patrons and through phone interviews of randomly selected TBL patrons. The survey for librarians and trustees (using SurveyMonkey) will be distributed this week to each email address included in the online library directory. Survey responses will also be requested through wired-mt. For the final written report, the evaluator will also use data collected during the five-year period by State Library staff in the form of training evaluation summaries, patron surveys, and outcomes-based evaluation logic models.

The final evaluation report will be submitted to IMLS by the March 31, 2007 deadline.