

To: MSL Commission  
From: Sue Jackson, Library Development Division  
Re: Update on Gates Grant Projects  
Date: January 29, 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 for 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. To date, \$170,128 has been spent to purchase 162 PACs for 65 public & branch libraries across the state.

### **2. Gates Rural Library Sustainability (RLS) Grant Project**

In addition to funding the two "Keeping Patrons Well Connected" workshops, this grant also makes it possible for selected Montana public library directors to attend the June 2007 ALA conference in Washington, D.C. Every librarian who attended one of the RLS workshops had the opportunity to apply for the ALA trip, and five applications were received. Because Montana met the training quota (80% of our libraries represented at one of the workshops), approval was given to send the maximum of five directors to ALA. Currently planning trips to DC are Rene Goss (Sidney), Bridgett Johnson (Lewistown), Renee McGrath (Stevensville), Kathy Mora (Great Falls), and Sami Pierson (Libby). This will be the first ALA conference for everyone except Renee McGrath.

A very small balance remained in the RLS grant and approval was received to help two library directors attend this year's OFFLINE retreat scheduled in February in Bozeman. Names of all librarians attending the RLS workshops were put in a hat; Donna Worth (Whitehall) and Janeen Brookie (Malta) were the winners.