

Southern Adirondack Library System 25% (Library) 75% (State) Construction Match

Background:

There is currently \$34 million allocated for public library construction aid for the FY21-22 funding year. SALS is allocated \$963,305 this year under this program.

Library Systems Boards of Trustees are permitted to approve a 25% (Library) / 75% (State) match for eligible projects.

Law:

SALS will need "to provide documentation where such an application requests state aid in an amount greater than fifty percent, demonstrating how the project will address the service needs of one or more economically disadvantaged communities. Such documentation may demonstrate need through poverty rates, concentrations of English language learners, low high school graduation rates, limited fiscal capacity or other relevant factors" and the law also states "geographically isolated or economically disadvantaged communities".

In approving any application that would receive state aid beyond fifty percent of the total project approved costs, the board of trustees of the library system shall give particular attention to addressing the library service needs of economically disadvantaged communities.

Justification:

Looking at the counties served by SALS, if funds were available it would be possible to justify that all of the libraries are in areas that have people living below poverty, high unemployment rates, and large numbers of children receiving free lunches. Please see the chart below.

Library	Chartered to serve area	County	Below Poverty ¹	Unemployment ²	Graduation Rates ³	Economically Disadvantaged ³	Per capita support ⁴
Argyle Free Library	Argyle (Town)	Washington	13.0%	7.2%	86%	47%	\$19.74
Crandall Public Library		Warren		8.4%			\$64.81
	Glens Falls (City)		15.8%		84%	48%	
	Queensbury (Town)		7.2%		90%	38%	
	Moreau (Town)		6.6%		88%	38%	
Rockwell Falls Public Library/Hadley-Luzerne Public Library	Hadley-Luzerne Central School District	Warren	6.6%	8.4%	89%	54%	\$58.20
Schuylerville Public Library	Schuylerville Central School District	Saratoga	4.1%	6.7%	96%	29%	\$35.42
Town of Ballston Community Library	Ballston (Town)	Saratoga	4.5%	6.7%	96%	19%	\$73.83

Sources

- 1) Chartered to serve area poverty data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
- 2) County-level unemployment from NYS Labor Department, 2020 Annual Average data
- 3) School district data from NYS Education Department, 2019-2020 school year data.
- 4) Per capita support as reported in the SALS 2020 Statistical Summary using member libraries' 2020 Annual Report data

Funding guidelines – SALS Policy for review of applications:

There are three potential circumstances facing the SALS Board of Trustees relative to the review process.

1. If there are not enough applications to spend all of the construction aid (available funds allocated to SALS), then all libraries will be recommended at the 25/75 match based on the criteria in the chart above.
2. If the eligible project applications do not utilize all available funds allocated to SALS by applying a 50/50 match to the budgets, then some Libraries will be recommended for the 25/75 match based on economic disadvantage, with other projects recommended for the 50/50 match. The SALS Board will consider the impact on communities, and the level of disadvantage based on the above chart in determining how many and which projects to recommend for increased aid.
3. If the eligible project applications total more than the available funds allocated to SALS, then some or all projects may be funded at less than a 50/50 match, at the discretion of the SALS Board, until all available funds are assigned.

The SALS Board will strive to fairly and judiciously allocate the available funds based on the merits of the projects, and the proportional impact each might have to the patrons and communities in the chartered to serve areas of our member libraries. The most economically disadvantaged communities, as defined by the information above, will be given higher preference in the determination of more advantageous funding matches.

Approved 6/19/2012

Revised March 2015

Data table revised September 2021