

**2020 Library Services Seed Challenge Grant**  
**Southern Adirondack Library System**  
**Deadline: December 27, 2019**

The SALS Board of Trustees recognizes libraries must keep pace with progress. To remain relevant, libraries in the SALS service area must evaluate ways to strengthen current library services, incorporate new ideas and provide services to people who live in, work in or visit their community.

The SALS Board of Trustees is continuing its competitive grant program to help member libraries either provide new services or expand existing services in order to respond to modern challenges and shifts in community priorities.

SALS has earmarked \$40,000 in order to offer applicants Library Services Seed Challenge Grants ranging from \$1,000 up to \$10,000 per project. Libraries may work together to develop a larger project at a higher funding level.

Library staff and boards should examine current services, community needs, library space (physical and virtual), staff skill sets, collections and current and potential community partnerships.

Grant funding can only be used once for this project. If the program is successful, every effort should be made to incorporate the service into future library budgets.

- Grant funds may be used to purchase equipment or materials, fund programs or presenters, or hire outside consultants or teachers.
- The funds cannot be used to pay for library staff.
- The proposed project must be new to the library. The project can be a new component of an existing program. For instance, the program can supplement the Summer Reading Program or other programs currently provided by the library.
- The proposed project must contain a community partnership component. The partner may be a school, museum, community group, agency, business or other relevant local organization. A partner, for example, may provide materials, personal expertise or advocacy.
- A letter of commitment from each community partner must accompany the application.
- The program must fit into the library's Long Range Plan of Service. The Long Range Plan of Service must either be on file with the System or in development.
- A final report is required and will be due Friday, December 4, 2020. The goal and objectives identified in the project application must be referenced in this report.

## **CHALLENGE QUESTIONS, THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

- How will your library provide a platform for learning, conversation and collaboration?
- How will your library assist its community members in accessing information?
- What is your library's role in providing information about your community and other organizations contained within?
- Who within your community do you hope to reach through the new program? How will you use your grant for outreach?
- How will you provide continuing education for the public and staff using new technologies to access and disseminate information?

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):**

*It is required that you have at least one community partner for this project.* Contact information and a letter of support must be submitted as part of the online application.

Additional partnerships may make your project more sustainable. You must provide a letter of support from each partner you list.

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

- COMPLETED APPLICATION (with clear goal and objectives)
- BUDGET DOCUMENT (approved by Board, signed by Director)
- LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Please complete the online application and submit all documents as PDFs through the online application portal by December 27, 2019:

<https://form.jotform.com/93085589431163>

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please direct any questions regarding the application or process to Sara Dallas ([sdallas@sals.edu](mailto:sdallas@sals.edu)) or Dianne Winter ([dwinter@sals.edu](mailto:dwinter@sals.edu)).