

STATE AID 101

Introduction

Beginning of State Aid Program

- In 1958 Lowell Martin conducted a study entitled *Library Services in Pennsylvania, Present and Proposed*.
- Martin concluded, “If Pennsylvania is to have sound . . . libraries . . . the State must also carry its share of the cost.”
- He also said, “Local government funds have been, and must continue to be, the mainstay of public services.”
- As a result of Martin’s work and that of many others, the Library Code was passed in 1961, resulting in a long history of strong state financial support.
- For many years Pennsylvania has been ranked among the top ten states in the nation in state support for public libraries.
- Local funding for libraries, however, continued to be in the bottom ten, and libraries continued to struggle to pay for basic services.

State Aid Redesign Begun in 1999-2000

- Thanks to a series of articles in the Philadelphia Inquirer by Gilbert Gaul, the plight of Pennsylvania’s libraries became the focus of attention throughout the state.
- The Pennsylvania Library Association’s Platform for Twenty-First Century Libraries established a plan for putting the Commonwealth’s libraries on par with the rest of the libraries in the nation.
- The proposed redesign of the Library Code provided an opportunity to:
 - Revise the purpose of State Aid
 - Change the formula
 - Seek additional state funds

Intent/Philosophy

- To provide a reliable basic level of library service by increasing the general operating budgets of libraries.
- To encourage, stimulate, and leverage local support, particularly local government funding.

Categories of State Aid

- Quality Libraries Aid
- Incentive for Excellence Aid
- County Coordination Aid
- District Library Center Aid
- Statewide Library Resource Aid
- Equalization Aid
- Equal Distribution Grants

Quality Libraries Aid

Eligibility

- Required Local Financial Effort of \$5 per capita for service area.
- Meet Quality Libraries Aid Criteria (Library Code).
- Meet Basic Standards (Library Regulations).

How Is It Calculated?

- Based on library service population.
- Multiplier determined by State Aid appropriation.
- The 2002-03 payment was \$1.82 per capita.
- $\$1.82 \times \text{Population} = \text{Quality Libraries Aid}$.
- For example, a library serving 10,000 people receives \$18,200 in Quality Libraries Aid.

Local Financial Effort

“...Sum expended annually by a local library...which derives from local taxes, gifts, endowments and other local sources...and which is used to determine eligibility for State-aid.” --- The Library Code, Section 302 (3)

Quality\Basic Standards

- Must participate in Access Pennsylvania Statewide Library Card Program
- Must claim census population for local municipality
- Must participate in creation of a county-wide plan for library service
- Collections
 - Collection meets community needs
 - Ready reference collection available
 - Spend twice previous year's Equal Distribution Grant
 - Collection not less than 6,000 items
 - 10 indexed periodicals
- Director must attend 8 hours of Continuing Education annually

- Hours
 - Library open 26 hours weekly
 - 6 of those hours on weekend (Saturday and/or Sunday)
- Participate in Interlibrary Loan
- Internet Use Policy
- Library Governance
 - Contributing municipality(ies) appoint(s) board
 - Libraries established before June 14, 1961: municipality(ies) appoint(s) two members
 - Libraries established on/after June 14, 1961: municipality(ies) appoint(s) board (5 – 7 members)
- Director must work at least 20 hours weekly.
- Communication with District Library Center required.
- The must be a municipal resolution recognizing the library as the agency for providing library service.
- The library must provide free service to contributing municipalities.
- Exterior sign required.
- Telephone listing required.

Incentive for Excellence Aid

Eligibility

- Library or system must expend over \$5.00 per capita. The incentive starts at \$5.01
- Meet Quality Libraries Aid Criteria and Basic Standards
- Meet Incentive for Excellence Aid Criteria and Minimum Standards

How Is It Calculated?

Incentive for Excellence Aid will be paid on a per capita basis on a two-tiered level:

- Tier 1: \$5.00 - \$7.50—Pays 80% return on the \$2.50 in this tier
- Tier 2: \$7.51 - \$15.00—Pays 6.5% return on the \$7.50 in this tier

Incentive for Excellence Aid Financial Requirements

- To qualify the library or system must:
 - Maintain its local financial effort. *The Library Code, Section 303.5 (D)*
 - Maintain its local government income. *The Library Code, Section 304 (D)*
- Local Financial Effort:

“A local library or library system shall not use Incentive for Excellence funds to reduce its financial effort for normal, recurring operating costs from a previous level unless evidence of substantial curtailment of financial ability of the community is accepted by the State Librarian.” *The Library Code, Section 303.5 (D)*.

- Local Government Income:
 - No ... plan for the use of Incentive for Excellence funds shall be approved if it projects a decrease in local government support for normal, recurring, operating costs from a previous level unless:
 - The State Librarian determines that the decrease is directly attributable to a gift or endowment to a library
 - Or that there is a substantial decrease in the financial ability of the municipality” ... *The Library Code, Section 304(D)*

Incentive/Minimum Standards

- Collection Development Expenditures
 - 12% of Total Operating Expenditures
 - 5% Increase over Previous Year or Percentage Increase in the Appropriation
- Hours Open
 - All must be open 7 hours on weekends
 - Seasonal Adjustment with State Librarian’s Approval
 - May reduce weekend hours to 4 for up to 10 weeks
 - May reduce total hours by 3 for up to 10 weeks
 - For Independent Libraries
 - Below 7,000 population 35 hours
 - 7,000 – 24,999 requires 45 hours
 - 25,000 – 49,999 requires 50 hours
 - 50,000 and above – requires 65 hours
 - System Members:
 - Less than 7,000 population 35 hrs
 - 7,000 or more 45 hrs
 - System Headquarters
 - Less than 50,000 population 50 hrs
 - 50, 000 or more 65 hrs
- Continuing Education (CE)
 - Paid staff working at least 20 hours per week in direct support of the library service must have:
 - At least 6 hours of CE every 2 years
- Collection size dependent on service area
- Certification of Head Librarian dependent on size of service area
 - For Independent Libraries
 - 0 – 9,999 population Library Assistant
 - 10,000 – 19,999 Provisional Librarian
 - 20,000 and over Professional Librarian
 - For System Members
 - 0 – 4,999 population System Certified
 - 5,000 – 14,999 Library Assistant
 - 15,000 – 19,999 Provisional Librarian
 - 20,000 and over Professional Librarian

- System Headquarters
 - Professional librarian with at least two years public library experience including supervisory experience
- Other requirements
 - Personnel Policy
 - Collection Management Policy
 - Long-range Plan
 - Staff Size
 - And Others

Other Categories of State Aid

County Coordination Aid

- Purpose of aid to provide countywide services for county residents.
- Funding based on classification of county and amount of county appropriation for libraries:

Class	Percentage Match
2	5%
2A & 3	30%
4	50%
5	50%
6	100%
7	100%
8	100%

- Because the category of aid is not yet fully funded, all classes of counties above except 8th class receive 54% of the aid.
- 8th class counties receive 100% of the county appropriation in County Coordination Aid
- County Coordination Aid is in addition to Incentive for Excellence Aid. County appropriations are the only type of library income that is matched twice.
- County funding guarantees that all residents of the county receive free library service.
- In most cases, when libraries receive county funding:
 - All residents of the county have access to the POWER Library databases.
 - All residents of the county may participate in the Access Pennsylvania Statewide Library Card Program.

District Library Center Aid

- District Centers are public libraries across the state that have significant collections and are able to provide services to local libraries.
- There are 29 District Centers in Pennsylvania
- Services include interlibrary loan, reference, delivery, and advisory services
- District Centers must meet District Library Center Standards

Statewide Library Resource Center Aid

- There are four major research libraries in the state that provide assistance to local libraries. They are:
 - Penn State University Park
 - Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
 - State Library of Pennsylvania
 - Free Library of Philadelphia
- Services include interlibrary loan, reference, electronic reference, and digitization.

Equalization Aid

- The purpose of Equalization Aid is to provide special funding for libraries in economically distressed areas of the state.
- Currently there is \$833,000 available in the category

Equal Distribution Grants

- Libraries, branches, and bookmobiles that meet Basic Standards are eligible.
- Each grant is approximately \$2,200.