April 27, 2021

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) South Dakota State Library Grant Process

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) awarded to the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) nearly 2.2 million dollars ($2,194,511.00) for investment in South Dakota. There are no match requirements. Like under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), all ARP federal funds must align with goals of the state's LSTA 5-Year Plan. South Dakota's plan is available here: LSTA 5 Year Plan 2018-2022 (sd.gov) These are not traditional LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) funds, but all ARP grant proposals must align with the State Library's 5-Year Plan.

While the CARES Act fulfilled some immediate technology and computer needs on the local level, the ARP offers local libraries a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in infrastructure, technology and materials that will serve South Dakotans through modern, innovative facilities and practices for years to come. Examples of potential purchases might include new computers, laptops, e-readers, monitors, printers, scanners, WiFi hot-spots, smart-boards, 3D printers, video, and other equipment both for the "back of the shop" as well as for their public areas. Most public and school libraries have now migrated to an ILS system (integrated library system formerly known as online catalogs). However, the ARP funds could be used to automate a local library's collection or upgrade to an online system accessible to patrons beyond the walls of the library facility. With online access, more school and public libraries can join *South Dakota ShareIt* network for discovery and locally initiated inter-library loan.

The ARP grant will have three categories: School, Public and Academic. We have built portals for a smooth, online application process. Grant awards will range from $5,000 up to $100,000. An individual library proposal must outline the planned purchases that fit within their requested grant amount and align to the allowed uses. All federal funds should be expended and accounted for by the writing of the final report due in early June 2022. Amendments can be submitted in the portal and approved before purchases are made.

Once a proposal is approved by the State Library, the awardee must purchase the approved items and/or services such as equipment, content, furniture* or computers. All purchases must align with the approved proposal, or an amendment must be filed and approved. Receipts must be included in the 2022 final report prior to a site visit and should total the amount requested. Cost over the approved amount will be the library's responsibility.

Watch the State Library Public listserv for information when the portals are open. Schools can apply on May 10; Public Libraries may apply starting May 17; and Academic Libraries may apply starting May 24. May is Round 1, June will be Round 2, July will be Round 3, August will be Round 4, etc. We will continue until the spring of 2022 or funds are expended. This is a rolling application process. Applicants will know within a week of the submission deadline if their proposal is approved or rejected. Libraries may apply in subsequent rounds. Awards will be given out until all the funds have expired.

More information and webinars will be available in early May.

Furniture must have a digital component or be outside furniture for the primary purpose of enhancing summer literacy or reading programming. Check with the State Library staff if you have questions about your proposal or ideas. Call 1-800-423-6665 or 1-605-773-3131.