

## **2021 STATE GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Library eBooks and Audiobooks (LEA) Content Program**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Background**

Three networks (SAILS, OCLN and Minuteman) piloted a new inter-network lending model with the vendor OverDrive beginning in the winter of 2017-18. The pilot allowed, for the first time, patrons of one network to check out eBooks and Audiobooks from the collection of another network. Over the course of the next year, the remaining automated networks having OverDrive collections joined the program. By May 2019, with the on boarding of the final two networks, the Library eBook and Audiobook (LEA) lending program was available statewide. In addition, the SAILS network serves as the access point through which MassCat members and unaffiliated libraries may participate. MLS manages these participants.

### **Purpose of this Grant Offering**

The LEA program creates a statewide eContent system more closely approximating how books and other physical materials are shared. However, the current marketplace for digital books bears little resemblance to that for physical books and media. Prices and license periods for eContent are in constant flux, and often trend in ways harmful to library budgets. The LEA Content Grants funding will significantly supplement networks' own collection development purchases, will help reduce hold queues and patron wait times, and increase the breadth of the collection.

New for 2021: The LEA Networks' OverDrive platform fees have been moved from the umbrella of the resource sharing grant to this one, consolidating all LEA payments to a single grant. Said fees will be paid out of account 7000-9702 (LSTA). For the Boston instance of OverDrive, BPL will be the LSTA grant recipient rather than MBLN.

### **Procedures**

Each network provides MBLC with title and holdings counts of their shareable OverDrive collection, and both the network spending and individual library spending on shareable content for the previous fiscal year. Items which are not shareable via LEA -- eMagazines, simultaneous use products, and OverDrive Advantage copies -- are not eligible for inclusion. Awards will be calculated with a common base amount for each network, with the remaining funds apportioned based on their provided data: 50% for total spending and 50% for holdings.

All funds must be spent on eContent that is shareable through the LEA program and must be fully expended by the end of the fiscal year in which they are awarded.

### **Reporting**

At the end of each fiscal year, networks will provide a narrative and expenditure report showing how the grant funds were expended, along with lending statistics for their shareable eContent collections.

### **Eligible Applicants**

The eight networks participating in LEA having their own OverDrive platforms are eligible to apply: CLAMS, CW MARS, MBLN, Minuteman, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN and SAILS.

### **Application Calendar**

Survey sent to Networks	July 6, 2020
Surveys and Request Form due	August 14, 2020
Meet with Networks to discuss preliminary figures	September 2020*
Board votes grant awards	October 2020*

\*Tentative, depending upon FY21 state budget process.

### **Anticipated Funding**

The total available for this grant will be determined once the FY21 7000-9506 budget is known. The total award for FY20 was \$500,000. If the total amount of funds available changes, the same formula will be used to re-calculate the award amounts.

### **To Apply**

Complete the reporting survey for this program and submit the request form via email to: [amy.clayton@state.ma.us](mailto:amy.clayton@state.ma.us) (Amy Clayton) by 4:00PM on August 14, 2020.

### **Questions**

Contact Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist, (617) 725-1860 x253