

Alaska Public Library Law

Article 04. LIBRARY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Sec. 14.56.300. Library assistance grant fund.

There is established in the department a library assistance grant fund. From legislative appropriations to the fund, the department shall make grants to eligible libraries for public library operations, for interlibrary cooperation, or for regional library services.

Sec. 14.56.310. Eligibility.

(a) Libraries eligible for grants under AS 14.56.300 are

(1) Public libraries established under AS 14.56.400 or, in a municipality that does not have a public library established under AS 14.56.400, another library that

(A) is a nonprofit corporation and holds meetings of its board of directors in public;

(B) provides services listed in AS 14.56.400 (a); and

(C) is approved to receive grants under AS 14.56.300 by resolution of the governing body of that municipality;

(2) libraries sharing resources free of charge with other libraries in the state; and

(3) libraries providing regional library services.

(b) A library described in (a)(1) of this section is eligible for a public library assistance grant. A library described in (a)(2) of this section is eligible for an interlibrary cooperation assistance grant. A library described in (a)(3) of this section is eligible for a regional library services assistance grant.

Sec. 14.56.320. Applications.

An eligible library may apply to the department for a grant under AS 14.56.300 - 14.56.340 in accordance with regulations adopted by the board.

Sec. 14.56.330. Limitations.

(a) A public library assistance grant under AS 14.56.310 (a)(1) may be a basic grant or a per capita grant. A basic grant may not be more than \$7,000 for each service outlet of the public library in any one fiscal year. The amount of a basic grant must be equally matched by local money, the fair value of volunteer labor, or a combination of local money and volunteer labor. If the amount available for public library assistance grants during a fiscal year is not sufficient to fully fund basic grants for all eligible libraries, the amount available shall be prorated so that the amount of basic grants for all eligible libraries is reduced by the same percentage. After payment

of basic grants to all eligible libraries during a fiscal year, any amount remaining for public library assistance grants shall be distributed as per capita grants to each library that received a basic grant. The amount of the per capita grants shall be based on the population of the municipality or unincorporated community served by each of the libraries.

(b) State money granted to a library under AS 14.56.300 - 14.56.340 may not be used to supplant local money equal to local expenditures for that library in fiscal year 1980, as adjusted annually by the commissioner to conform approximately to changes in the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index for Anchorage, Alaska. A library that uses state money to supplant local money forfeits eligibility for grants under AS 14.56.300 - 14.56.340 for two years.

Sec. 14.56.340. Regulations.

The board shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of AS 14.56.300 - 14.56.330. The regulations must include qualifications for grant eligibility and provisions regarding the use of grant funds.

Sec. 14.56.400. Public libraries.

(a) A public library established under this section shall provide at least the following services free of charge to the residents of the municipality or community:

- (1) establish and maintain a collection of books and other materials for loaning;
- (2) provide access to interlibrary loan services;
- (3) provide reading or other educational programs for children; and
- (4) provide reference information.

(b) A public library established under this section shall submit an annual report of its operations and the services it provides to the director of the division that has responsibility for state libraries.