Guidelines for 2020-2022 NYS Construction Aid Program

I. New York State Requirements

(A) The sixty-five (65) chartered libraries are eligible for the New York State Construction Aid

(B) Project must meet at least one of the NYS Construction Grant Priorities

1. Increased effectiveness of library service due to increased and/or improved building space and capacity;
2. More efficient utilization of the building resulting in such economies as energy conservation and increased staff efficiency,
3. Improved access to and use of building services by all library users, including those with physical disabilities; and
4. Provision of library services to geographically isolated or economically disadvantaged communities.

(C) The project cost must be at least $5,000 to be eligible for the NYS Construction Grant

(D) Library must have matching funds at the time of application

II. The NCLS Plan of Service requirements:

(A) Libraries must participate in Interlibrary Loan

(B) Libraries must demonstrate a pattern of striving to increase Local Public Support over the past three years

(C) Applications will be ranked in accordance with priorities set by the NCLS Board of Trustees
III. State and Local Match Amounts

The amount for the local match may range from 25 to 50 percent. The State will match grants from 50 to 75 percent. After the applications meet the guidelines in Section I (NYS requirements) and Section II (NCLS Plan of Service requirements and ranking), projects will be subjected to the criteria in Section III - Part A to determine 75/25 match eligibility. Eligibility does not guarantee your library will receive a full 75% match.

In 2020, NCLS will receive $407,060 to distribute to our member libraries. If applications meet all of the requirements in Section I, Section II and Section III - Part A and the total award amount of all eligible projects exceeds $407,060, additional criteria from Section III - Part B will be necessary to prioritize projects and determine match amounts.

(A) In order to qualify for the reduced match, applicants must meet at least two of the following criteria. All NCLS member libraries meet at least two of these economic indicators. For information on the specific economic indicators your library meets, please visit the North Country Library System’s Construction Grant Page (https://web.ncls.org/page/construction-grants).

The library is in a county where...

*the unemployment rate is above the NYS average

*the median household income is below the NYS average

*the % of people below the poverty level is above the NYS average

*the % of people that are high school graduates (or higher) is below the NYS average

*the % of people with a bachelor’s degree or higher education is below the NYS average
(B) Ranking Used When Applications Exceed Available Grant Funds

Section III – Part B will be applied ONLY if the total awards amount of all eligible projects exceeds $406,070. Projects may be ranked and award amounts could be lowered from 75% based on the following:

Library submitted a complete and thorough application before the NCLS deadline

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (YES, 1 point – No, 0 points)

Library has a web site that is maintained and updated monthly

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (YES, 1 point – No, 0 points)

Library Director has attended Continuing Education Workshop in the past year

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (YES, 1 point – No, 0 points)

Library Trustee has attended a Continuing Education Workshop in the past year

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (YES, 1 point – No, 0 points)

Library attended the *Introduction to the NYS Construction Grant Program* workshop and/or scheduled a one-on-one session with the State Services Coordinator within the last two years.

☐ YES  ☐ NO  (YES, 1 point – No, 0 points)