

# State Aid Task Force



**SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 MEETING**

# Agenda



- **Suggestions for phone/conference meetings**
- **Website for task force materials**
- **Task Force Charges**
- **Timeline**
- **State Aid Formula/Census Summary**
- **Concerns we've heard from libraries**
- **Suggestions for addressing those concerns**
- **Next Steps**

# Things I've Learned About Online/Phone Meetings

- **It's helpful if you**
  - Say your name before speaking
  - Make sure that you are close to your phone/microphone when speaking
  - Use mute when not speaking
  - Interrupt when you have something to say
- **Finally Tracy might call on you if we haven't heard from you in awhile just to make sure that you have a chance to speak.**

# Website Address for Task Force Materials



- [http://msl.mt.gov/About\\_MSL/State\\_Aid\\_Task\\_Force/default.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/State_Aid_Task_Force/default.asp)

# Task Force Charges



- Recommend changes to the state aid formula that are fair to all public libraries, as consistent as possible, and uses some sort of outside number as verification (i.e. Census data)
- Recommend a frequency for how often the numbers for the formula are updated. For example should the population estimates be updated every 5 years, 10 years, or something else.
- Questions or comments?

# Our Timeline



- September - October 2011 - Task force will use email, phone, and/or online meeting software to come up with suggestions for the State Librarian and the commission
- November – January 2012 – State Librarian, Commission, and Montana library community will discuss recommendations
- February – March 2012 – If necessary the committee will make changes to recommendations based on library community feedback.
- March –April 2012 Administrative rules process will begin.
- July 2012 – New state aid rules will be implemented.
- Questions or comments?

# State Aid Formula & Census Summary



- [State Aid Example](#)
- [Census Summary](#)

# What concerns have you heard?



- Population figures change frequently, so it would be good to update more frequently.
- Gives people a big shock when we use 10 year numbers.
- Could we consider a base grant for all libraries
- How or can we recognize out of county population esp. important for libraries near county borders
- What about libraries that share patrons/community members? Ex. Laurel and Billings



# What concerns are out there?



- Do census estimates include school districts?
- Are school/community libraries going to be considered public libraries for state aid? – yes
- Library districts and changes
- What solution is going to be most stable and flexible?

# Possible solutions for these concerns?



- **Research other states to see how they handle state aid for libraries**
- **Update the data more frequently – 3 or 5 year updates**
- **Would be more inclined to use population estimates on an annual basis – use CEIC data**
- **Offer base grants and divide money equally amongst libraries**

# Next Steps



- Tracy will send out notes from the meeting
- Via email we will discuss the different solutions.
- We will identify which ones to explore further
- MSL staff will do the homework on crunching numbers and researching our options
- Tracy will send that information via email
- Group will meet again to discuss different solutions and decide on a recommendation

# Thanks!



- Please keep in touch and contact me if you have any questions or need anything.
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