

Memo

To: Network Advisory Council

From: Tracy Cook, Director of
Statewide Library Resources

Date: May 1, 2018

Re: Recommendations for Fiscal Year '17 Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) vacancy savings

We have unallocated LSTA funding available due to vacancy savings. The amount is more than normal. The budget you have been presented is an estimate. We have a few things like the intern request, temporary help for the Talking Book Library, and the re-classification of the Information Specialist position that may change how much unallocated funding we have available. This is funding that is unlikely to be available next year, so it should not be used to start new projects.

In your meeting materials, you will see an FY17 LSTA budget that shows an amount of approximately \$97,000. I have also included a spreadsheet that shows what happens to library bills for OCLC if we apply the LSTA funds to the OCLC contract for a one time only benefit to libraries as well as a spreadsheet that shows some other possible, more traditional uses of the vacancy savings.

Here are some possible options:

1. Apply the unallocated funds in more traditional ways including paying for the State Library's first three months of OCLC, Overdrive, SirsiDynix, and purchasing replacement equipment. This option keeps with tradition for how remaining LSTA funds have been spent. It does not significantly reduce any library's OCLC bill but it would help libraries in a small way. Please see the spreadsheet entitled LSTA Allocation Option 1 for a breakdown of this option. This option was favored by the public library directors that I spoke with at the Montana Library Association Conference.

2. Apply the unallocated funds to the entire OCLC contract which benefits all types of libraries. Some of you may have been present at a discussion with the public library directors about the possibility of applying the LSTA vacancy savings to only the public library portion of the bill to recognize the loss of state aid. Public library directors voiced the desire to help all types of libraries, so I am not presenting that as an option. We can discuss it if you would like to re-consider that idea.
3. Apply the unallocated funds to the first three months of OCLC, Overdrive, and SirsiDynix and apply the remaining funds to the OCLC contract. This would reduce costs for libraries, but not as dramatically as applying the entire amount to the OCLC bill.
4. Any ideas are welcome, but we must keep in mind that the funds must be spent by September 30, 2018, must be one time only funds, and must meet the Institute of Museum and Library Services' criteria for use of federal dollars.

I would like a recommendation from the Network Advisory Council about how to use these funds. This recommendation will go to the Montana State Library Commission for action at their May meeting.