

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Pam Henley, Consulting Librarian

Date: July 18, 2022

Re: Excellent Library Services Award (ELSA)

Staff request the Commission adopt the ELSA 2022 resolution

For many years the Commission has recognized libraries that offer excellent service to their communities. In the past, this award was based on the Excellent level of the Public Library standards (*previous levels were: Essential - necessary for funding - Enhanced and Excellent*). Revisions to the public library standards provided staff the opportunity to also revise the ELSA to better reflect the activities and services Montana's libraries provide to their communities.

A committee of librarians representing various types of libraries worked to develop an application better suited to allow more than just public libraries to apply. Categories of excellence now consist of:

- Programming, Outreach and Engagement;
- Collaboration;
- Diversity and Equity;
- Marketing and Communication;
- Planning;
- and Professional Development.

To apply, libraries were required to select a minimum number of recommendations and answer a short question related to each category. For libraries who were not able to meet the recommendations there was the option to provide a longer narrative explaining how they met the criteria of the category.

MSL consulting librarians reviewed the applications. This year staff recommend 36 libraries receive the award.