



SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 10, 2019

PRESENT: Sarah Goff; Lisa Scoons; Jackie Marino; Sarah Clark; Tara Ricard

UHLS Staff: Timothy Burke; Natalie Hurteau

Meeting called to order at 4:05PM by Sarah Goff, Chair.

I. 90% AWARD DISCUSSION

The committee discussed the newly passed, but still yet to be signed into law by the Governor, law that creates an option for some libraries to be eligible for construction aid awards of UP TO 90%, with 10% coming from the library as matching funds.

T. Burke explained that the bill language as written provides a statewide definition for "economically distressed communities" requiring libraries to be serving communities that have an average poverty rate equal to or greater than the NYS average poverty rate as defined by federal census data to be eligible. But the second requirement in the bill requires libraries to "demonstrate that they lack the capacity to provide 25% of the project costs", without a definition of how to measure that.

There was a conference call yesterday between PULISDO and DLD and T. Burke explained that after that call it still remained unclear how DLD was going to interpret this question and whether the individual systems were going to be given the autonomy to determine their own measure for this requirement. With that information still undetermined, he said that he was not able to make a recommendation to the committee for specific revisions to the UHLS criteria at this time. He hoped to have more information soon.

Further, there is no specific deadline by which the legislation must be signed by the Governor, so it may not be approved in time to be active for this year's awards, but UHLS wants to be prepared if it is signed in time. August 1 was the tentatively agreed upon deadline by PULISDO and DLD by which the legislation would need to be signed to make it an option for this year's grant cycle.

The committee continued to discuss possible measures of "lack of capacity", with per capita local support being identified as one of the likely statistical measures for a library's lack of capacity.

T. Burke reminded the committee members that August 1 was the initial deadline for construction aid applications and that even if the UHLS Board did not meet in August, the Services Committee will be meeting to begin work on this year's applications. Committee members will be contacted very soon to get a meeting date in place.

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 4:32PM.