



UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

NYS Public Library Construction Aid – 75%/90% award criteria

For 2023

75% Eligible Criteria

Effective 2012 UHLS member libraries that are located in an “economically disadvantaged community” will be eligible to be awarded up to 75% of their total approved project cost from funds allocated to UHLS for the New York State Public Library Construction Aid Program.

The UHLS approved criteria used to determine which member libraries are located in an economically disadvantaged community are described below. A library must meet any one of these criteria to be eligible for a recommended award of up to 75% of the total approved project cost.

- 1) Serve a municipal subdivision which makes up a majority (by population or land area) of the library’s chartered service population that has **4 percent or more of its population unemployed** as shown in the latest 5 year summary data of the US census (US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates - <https://censusreporter.org/>)
 - Under the Topics section, choose Employment
 - Choose table B23025 Employment Status
 - Type in a place name (ex. Grafton, NY)

- 2) Serve a municipal subdivision which makes up a majority (by population or land area) of the library’s chartered service population that has **10 percent or more of its population living in poverty** as shown in the latest 5 year summary data of the US census (US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates –<https://censusreporter.org/>)
 - Type in a place name (ex. Berne, NY)
 - Poverty Levels are included in the Economics section

- 3) Serve the majority (by population or land area) of a public school district within which the percentage of student enrollment that is **eligible for free and reduced lunch under the National School Lunch Program is 30 percent or more** for at least one month during the twelve months prior to the date of filing of the grant application -
https://portal.nysed.gov/pls/cn_port/mel3_pkg.elig_enroll_query
 - Select specific NYS School District from pull down menu

- Check “school” box under PUBLIC
- Click “Find”

- 4) The library must serve a municipal subdivision which makes up a majority (by population or land area) of the library’s chartered service population that is located in a **State or Federally designated disaster area** any time for a period of 3 years from the initial designation.

90% eligible criteria

Effective in 2020, UHLS member libraries that are located in “economically **distressed** communities” will be eligible to be awarded up to 90% of their total approved project cost from funds allocated to UHLS for the New York State Public Library Construction Aid Program.

UHLS will adhere to the NYS Library’s requirements to determine which of our member libraries serve an “economically **distressed** community” as detailed below (please note that all three requirements must be met for a library to be eligible to receive an award above 75%):

- 1) Libraries serving economically distressed communities must first meet all system requirements to receive State funding at the 75% level (as described above).
- 2) The poverty rate within the library’s service area must be equal to or greater than the New York state average poverty rate using 5 yr. average federal census data. **The State Library will have the sole authority to determine whether a library meets this requirement.**

NOTE – As of 5/10/23, DLD has not delineated a process or a timeline by which they will provide any requested 90% eligibility determinations. UHLS will continue to work with DLD to get more clarity and information on their process and timeline for this responsibility.

- 3) If a poverty rate requirement is approved by the State Library as described above, then the applying library’s project application must also include:
 - A written description of how the project(s) included in the application “*will specifically address the service needs of one or more economically distressed communities within the library’s service area. Need may be based on such factors as poverty rates, English as a second language communities, education levels, low high school graduation rates, foreclosure rates, unemployment rates, free and reduced school lunch rates or other pertinent factors.*”
 - A written description of why “*the library and its community lack the capacity to provide twenty-five percent of the project costs. Documentation of this lack of fiscal capacity must include facts about the economic/financial status of the library and its community. Such facts may include but are not limited to per capita local support; the lack of an economic engine in the community; the failure of a capital campaign; the loss of a major area employer; a small or poor tax base or other pertinent factors.*”

These written descriptions will be reviewed and considered for approval as part of the UHLS application approval process by the UHLS staff, Services Committee and Board of Trustees and the approved narratives will be submitted as part of the final application.

Notes

Note #1 - If all applying libraries are fully funded at their maximum allowable award (50%, 75%, and 90%) and there are still grant funds unclaimed, the UHLS Board of Trustees reserves the right to re-evaluate the determination of an “economically **disadvantaged** community” in order to ensure that all UHLS member libraries are given maximum access to the allotted funds.

Note #2 – The UHLS Construction Aid Eligibility Chart will be prepared and distributed annually on or before June 1 of each year and posted on the UHLS website.

Criteria adopted by the UHLS Board of Trustees: 5/19/12

Revised and approved by the UHLS Board of Trustees: 5/10/17

Revised and approved by the UHLS Board of Trustees: 7/8/20

Revised and approved by the UHLS Board or Trustees: 7/14/21

90% information revised for 2022: 5/19/22