

Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Opportunity

Questions and Answers

September 9, 2025 Update

15. The deadline for application is the 12th. My Board meets on the 18th and this was on the agenda for approval, can I submit the resolution after the deadline?

Please see the answer to question 11 below.

September 2, 2025 Update

14. Will the NJ State Library consider applications to the Expanding Digital Literacy program from libraries that will not use LSTA funds to purchase computers/pay for direct costs associated with accessing the internet and so submit a request less than the anticipated minimum award (\$15,000)?

NJSL expects proposals within the anticipated minimum and maximum grant award amounts listed in the Grant Application Guidelines (\$15,000 to \$25,000). Applications with budgets for less than the anticipated minimum award amount may be considered.

13. For the EDL grant, would AV systems, such as a touch screen with video conferencing be eligible? We have digital lit classes with seniors and are using an aging presentation system that we'd like to either upgrade or replace.

Please see the answers to questions 1 and 2 below.

August 26, 2025 Update

12. If the full cost of a project is above the maximum amount of \$25,000, can a library still apply if they are able to pay the difference?

Yes, any additional spending anticipated for allowable costs can be listed in the appropriate category of the 'Cost Share' column of the Budget Summary Form.

August 19, 2025 Update

11. I would like to inquire whether we may submit a draft resolution with our grant application for the NJ State Library Expanding Digital Literacy Grant Program FY25, with the understanding that an executed resolution will be submitted after the Board of Trustees meets on September 17, 2025.

Yes, the applicant may submit a draft board resolution approving the application. It should include the date for the board meeting at which the resolution is expected to be voted on. A grant agreement will not be fully executed until the resolution is approved by the board and submitted to the New Jersey State Library.

August 12, 2025 Update

1. Would the purchase of office pods be an allowable request under this grant?

Yes, program equipment may be included in your application. Please keep in mind that any equipment that has a unit price of more than \$10,000 would need to be approved separately by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) after the grant is awarded.

2. Would this grant be appropriate to purchase laptop computers for computer classes?

Further guidance on application budgets is available in the Grant Application Guidelines. Equipment and supplies are defined and included in the examples of allowable costs.

3. Will you be sending out the slides after the webinar today? I know you mentioned the recording would be posted online next week.

Yes, the slides are posted on the New Jersey State Library's webpage for Expanding Digital Literacy: www.njstatelib.org/digitalliteracy

4. Can you please share again the information regarding when awarded libraries receive the funds?

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis only after the awardee has submitted required expenditure documentation.

5. Are there any restrictions regarding the use of DEI language in our applications?

No, these awards are to enable programming for any digital literacy needs in the applicant's community. Applicants are asked to document the community's needs for a technology skills program, and how this will help participants by increasing their confidence and skills.

6. Will awarded libraries have to go through a full financial audit during the reporting period?

The New Jersey State Library will not require any audit over and above what awardees are already obligated to do each year. However, since the grant is federally funded awardees need to follow the audit requirements specified in Uniform Guidance, Subpart F, which specifies that a Single Audit is required for a non-Federal entity that expends \$750,000 or more in Federal awards during the entity's fiscal year.

7. What are the limitations on the types of resources the grant can be used for? Let's say like language education, such as Pimsleur? I find quite a bit of patrons here struggle with finding

resources to learn English. We have a language program here at the library however it peaks at a certain level.

Further guidance on application budgets is available in the Grant Application Guidelines. Software is included in the examples of allowable costs. All expenses must fall within the period of performance of the grant: November 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026.

8. As this is a reimbursement-based grant, and considering the current political climate, can you confirm whether funding will remain reliably available to support reimbursements?

Expanding Digital Literacy is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The New Jersey State Library was awarded an LSTA Grants to States Program grant for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Grants to States is a formula grant from IMLS, not a discretionary grant. Funds are anticipated to be available through the duration of the grant period of performance.

9. Will Northstar be available September - November 2025?

Northstar Digital Literacy licenses will be renewed through September 30, 2026.

10. Patrons come to our library to use their laptops and devices, however there are only two outlets available on the floor. We have hoped to install more, but the price was restrictive. Would something like this be eligible?

Further guidance on allowable costs is available in the Grant Application Guidelines. Construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of property in any form are unallowable costs.