

YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Dallas
January 20 – 24, 2012

Topic: Proposed Grant for State Library Agencies

Background: In the fall of 2011, YALSA surveyed state library agency youth consultants in an effort to find out what their needs were and how YALSA might support them. 25 individuals completed the survey. One of the recommendations that came out of the survey was to provide a grant to state libraries in order to encourage and support their efforts to implement teen-focused library programs. Grace Greene and Sharon Rawlins, consultants from Vermont and New Jersey respectively, have developed a proposal for a grant, the draft of which is provided below.

Action Required: Discussion

Proposal

Create a grant for state libraries to encourage and support their efforts to provide high quality library programs to the teens in their state.

Rationale

- 60% of survey respondents indicated that they had less than \$1,000 per year budgeted for supporting teen services.
- As a national association, it is up to YALSA to lead the way in supporting regional and state organizations in their efforts to improve or enhance teen services.
- By strengthening teen services at the state level, YALSA can make strides towards its “big, hairy audacious” goal of ensuring that all teens have access to excellent library services and resources.

Proposed Grant

I. Proposed Name of the Grant

The proposed name is the YALSA State Grant.

II. Definition, Purpose and Criteria

The purpose of the YALSA State Grant is to give state library agencies the means to begin a new service or program for young adults. The new service or program should be innovative for the state and must not be able to be accomplished with the state agency’s regular budget. The service can be statewide or can target certain libraries in the state.

The award can be for anything that improves or creates services and programs that target young adults. Possibilities include, but are not limited to: training for librarians and library workers, a new statewide service, materials or a pilot program. Awards will be granted based on the following criteria: need, timeliness, originality, relevance to young adults, impact on a state, persuasiveness of arguments, quality of writing and clarity of presentation.

III. Rationale

YALSA is a national association of librarians, library workers and advocates whose mission is to expand and strengthen library services for teens, aged 12-18. Through its member-driven advocacy, research, and professional development initiatives, YALSA builds the capacity of libraries and librarians to engage, serve and empower teens. This award will strengthen young adult library services in a particular state and publicize the work that YALSA does, thus addressing YALSA's strategic plan goals of member recruitment and advocacy.

IV. Number and Frequency of Award

There will be one grant round each year. Applicants may apply for a portion or all of the money. More than one grant may be awarded.

V. Award Administration and Jury

The award jury will consist of five people: a chair, three jury members and a consultant. Four of the jury members must be YALSA members and a fifth from a state library agency, who may or may not be a YALSA member, will serve as a consultant. The Jury will be appointed annually by the YALSA President-Elect for the express purpose of determining the recipient(s) of the grant. The jury's term will run from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

VI. Deadline for Applications

The deadline for applications will be Dec. 1, allowing time for the committee to make their decision by the end of the Midwinter Meeting of the following calendar year. Information about the grant and the deadline will be posted on YALSA's website, in its publications, and shared via YALSA's social media channels. The application form will be available on YALSA's website.

VII. Selection of Grant winner(s)

Criteria for eligibility:

- The main author of the proposal must be employed by a state library agency. The author must be a personal member of YALSA or the state library agency must be an institutional member.
- The following must be addressed in the application:
 - ✓ Description and documentation of the need or problem to be addressed.
 - ✓ Who will benefit from this project?
 - ✓ What difference/what impact will the project make?

- ✓ How will the proposed service/project be provided, delivered or accomplished?
 - ✓ Who will be involved in carrying out the project?
 - ✓ Will partnerships or co-operation with other organizations or agencies be part of the project?
 - ✓ What methods, materials and staffing are required?
 - ✓ Describe plans (if any) to continue the project beyond the grant period.
- Selection is based upon need, timeliness, originality, relevance to young adults, impact on a state, persuasiveness of arguments, quality of writing and clarity of presentation.
 - The jury reserves the right to award only a portion of what has been requested.
 - If the jury determines that no suitable proposals have been received, no award will be given.

VIII. Presentation of the Award

The grant winner(s) will be announced via press release at the conclusion of the Midwinter Meeting. The winning proposal(s) will be listed and described on YALSA’s web site and featured in an article in a future issue of *Young Adult Library Services*. The recipient(s) will be recognized at the annual YALSA Membership Meeting and through YALSA’s communication channels.

IX. Form and/or Type of Award

The recipients of the grant will receive a cash award as soon after Midwinter as is feasible and once the agency signs a memorandum of understanding.

A report on the results of the grant will be due to YALSA one year after the presentation of the award. A reporting form will be made available online.

X. Funding

The amount available for the grants will be \$5,000. AWE Literacy Stations, Baker & Taylor, Brainfuse, Tutor.com and Upstart were contacted in December about potential sponsorship. AWE and Brainfuse have expressed interest and are in the process of reviewing the proposal.

<i>YALSA State Grant</i>	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Cash award for honoree	5000	5000	5000	5000
Creation of plaque for honoree	100	100	100	100
Administrative costs/PR/staff time	250	250	250	250
TOTAL EXPENSES	5350	5350	5350	5350

XI. Catalog description of Grant

The YALSA State Grant recognizes the vital importance that state library agencies have in promoting and facilitating good library services for teens in their states. The purpose of this annual grant of up to \$5,000 is to help state agencies improve library service for teens in their states.

XII. Evaluation of the Grant Program

At the end of the first three years (after the reports on the second round have been submitted) the grant program will be evaluated by a task force appointed by the YALSA President and composed of YALSA members with appropriate experience. The task force will evaluate the success of the grant program and submit a report to YALSA's Board of Directors which will include recommendations for changes or improvement as needed. Evaluation is to include: discussion of any changes needed in policies, procedures, and criteria; determination of continuation of the grant program, and sponsor involvement, if appropriate.

Proposed Action

Adopt the grant proposal and submit it to the ALA Award Committee for their consideration.

Additional Resources

- State Library Agency Youth Consultant survey results: <http://svy.mk/qR25yq>