

Library Development Accreditation Program for Public Libraries – 2018

What: Applying for accreditation in YEAR ONE of the 2018-2020 accreditation cycle **AND** applying for a 2018 library development grant.

When: The deadline to apply for accreditation and a library development grant in 2018 is **Thursday, February 15, 2018.**

Why: The Library Development Accreditation Program is intended to encourage and recognize attainment of the standards for public library service in the Northeast Kansas Library System. All public libraries are encouraged to participate in the accreditation program, and accreditation certificates will be awarded to libraries upon approval of accreditation applications.

The Accreditation Program is a *requirement* for those eligible libraries applying for a Library Development grant.

Accreditation will remain valid through the end of the three-year accreditation period; however, quantifiable standards will be verified annually using the library's most recent annual statistical report to the State Library of Kansas. Continued achievement of those standards within the accreditation period is required for yearly grant eligibility.

The library may choose to apply for accreditation at the level of service that the library determines to be appropriate for its community. Standards are intended to apply to the main or central library location in libraries operating multiple branch libraries.

Process: For 2018, the library director and library board should complete: (1) the entire accreditation application and (2) the *2018 Library Development Grant Application*. (See FAQs below.)

If applying for a waiver of an accreditation standard, you will be asked to provide the standard number and standard title; an explanation for how you intend to meet the standard; and a proposed timeline for meeting the standard

A waiver form may be found here: <https://goo.gl/b569EN>

Completed accreditation and library development grant application materials should be mailed to the NEKLS office, Attn: Mike McDonald.

Grant: Library development grant levels for 2018 are as follows:

Gateway Library - \$8,114
Linking Library - \$11,877
Service Center I - \$16,400
Service Center II - \$20,228
Major Service Center I - \$24,228
Major Service Center II - \$32,000
Major Service Center III - \$55,000
Major Resource Library - \$90,000
District Library Grants - \$500

FAQ: **Q.** Where can I find a clean copy of the 2018 accreditation standards?

A: A copy of the 2018 accreditation standards is available on the NEKLS website here: <https://goo.gl/cAvugk> (This is document 1 of 2 that you should complete and return to NEKLS.)

Q. Where can I find a copy of the 2018 Library Development Grant Application?

A: A copy of the 2018 Library Development Grant Application is available on the NEKLS website here: <https://goo.gl/9tbWiP> (This is document 2 of 2 that you should complete and return to NEKLS.)

Q. Does NEKLS have a document explaining the changes between the current accreditation standards and the new 2018 standards?

A: Yes! A copy of the 2018 accreditation standards – with highlighted explanations on changes and additions – is available on the NEKLS website at: <https://goo.gl/MEvD1p>

Q. How do we determine the appropriate accreditation level for which to apply?

A: Begin with your current level of accreditation. Has it been a challenge maintaining this service level? Analyze your community – what are the community’s needs in relation to the library? What service level would best position the library to meet those needs? Will your budget support providing this level of service?

You may discover that a particular service level makes sense, but the library currently falls short with a standard. In these instances, a waiver may be possible to give your library time to achieve the standard in question. Waivers are not permanent – thoughtful consideration should be given to whether or not it makes sense to pursue a level of accreditation that would require a waiver.

Q: What if my library does not meet a standard from the target service level?

A: Libraries may request a waiver of any standard. The System Director will consider requests for waivers and decisions may be appealed to the Executive Board of the Northeast Kansas Library System. *NEKLS may grant a waiver in order to provide libraries sufficient time to achieve a standard that is “in process.” When requesting a waiver, libraries must provide a proposed timeline for achieving the standard.*

Inquiries: For additional information, please contact: Mike McDonald, Library Development Consultant, at mmcdonald@nekls.org or 785-838-4090.