State Aid Review Task Force

Charge for the State Aid Review Task Force:
The Task Force will study recommendations from the State Aid Review Committee regarding the Waiver process and the MAR calculation. Both require additional input from the library community, more focused research on current program elements, and a closer analysis of relevant data before a final determination about possible changes can be presented to the Board.

Meeting #5
February 16, 2017
Shrewsbury Public Library
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
AGENDA

Welcome/ Introductions/ Charge
Recap of 1/12/17 meeting
Coming together today to develop a final consensus
Seeing the big picture-coming up with suggestions that benefit the entire state
Commissioners looking to revisit accommodations policies
Looking for concrete numbers for #s of years, percentages, plans
Draft a report with recommendations/ draft for next meeting
Review to see if it reflects your ideas and recommendations

One More Issue to Discuss:
- Accommodations for hours and materials
  o Are current levels reasonable?
  o Is it time to pull back on these concessions?

(Accommodation and flexibility chart from meeting 4 distributed)

Group 2:
Some level of accommodation is critical; even if no waiver needed, some level needed. 80% is too few hours. One level of accommodation at 90%
Is the library % for materials reasonable. Resource sharing and delivery has changed. Materials go in and out regardless of who purchase them?
Hours open requirement. Pop shift. (9,000 to 10,000) large jump

Group 1:
Gradually eliminate the 80% over the next 3-5 years. Policy will be reviewed and updated as needed.

Discussion:
With technology, reduce hours? Having minimums means that the smaller libraries are more viable. 24/7 access and catalog to see and request an unlimited number of items. Still need the hours open to pick up materials.

Consensus on Recommendations to Report to the Commissioners
- Options for the MAR – Consensus at Sept meeting was that keeping the MAR in place is important for the sustainability of MA libraries
- Waiver Issues
- Definition of Municipal Fiscal Hardship
- Definition of a Disproportionate Cut – What Percentage?
- How many consecutive years may a municipality apply for and receive a waiver? Any criteria for exceptions?
- What would a Municipal Plan for recovery look like?
- Outliers of the program, a voluntary program

Group Discussion:
5% is the benchmark for a regular waiver standard waiver process
Yr 1 standard waiver process application (if not disprop)
Yr 2 must include a financial plan written and submitted by the municipality in conjunction with the trustees/ may need to appear at mtg at discretion of the MBLC if the plan does not meet minimum standards/expectations; these are tools we can use to avoid pressure
Yr 3 submitting a report that is an update on progress possible meeting
Yr 4 progress report with a warning that there is only one year remaining
Yr 5 have to meet the goal/ off waivers and meeting the MAR

Disproportionate Cut would appear before the board in year 2 to update (even if regular waiver.)
Minimum requirement. Support for library.

Components:
List of fin benchmarks for 5 years

Service outcomes
Restores hours
Want to see the minutes from all public meetings where this plan was discussed/prepared/approved
Cover letter from town official mayor and chair of BOT
Copies of the budgets from the town and the library as standard
Narrative that describes the plan and the status
Contact information that identifies the financial person if questions
Annual updates to the plan

Do the disproportionate cut municipalities need to meet other benchmarks? Come to the meeting the following January to present plan in person and update the board on progress (2\textsuperscript{nd} appearance)

Wrap-up and Work for Next Meeting