

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Value of grants and scholarships:

Two Professional Development Grants of up to \$450 each are available to assist South Dakota Library Association members with the costs of attending conferences, workshops, or other professional learning opportunities. These grants are designed for those who are already established in the area of librarianship.

Two Scholarships of up to \$500 each are available to assist SDLA members with the costs of professional education in the field of librarianship.

Two SDLA Conference Grants are available to defray costs of registration, travel and hotel expenses, plus costs of a substitute at the home library if needed. Grants of up to \$400 may be awarded. Recipients must be members of SDLA.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the grants shall be to develop and improve library services in South Dakota by helping individuals expand and continue their education and background and to improve their expertise in the area of librarianship. Association members are encouraged to apply for these funds which may be used for the following: formal coursework at a college or university; an independent study program; or attendance at workshops, institutes, seminars and conferences.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION:

1. The applicant must be a resident of South Dakota or be employed in a South Dakota library.
2. The applicant must be a current member of SDLA.
3. The applicant must submit a completed application that includes a budget of expected expenses and a brief narrative statement describing personal growth and career development expected from the program.
4. Scholarship applicants must be accepted by an American Library Association accredited graduate school of library/information science, OR an undergraduate library media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines within a unit accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.
5. The application should be accompanied, whenever possible, by printed materials which describe the program.
6. Current Professional Development Grants Committee members are eligible for grants or scholarships; however, they may not vote on their own applications.

CONDITIONS OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

1. Students, trustees, and unemployed members are eligible. It is not necessary that applicants be currently employed in a library.
2. All applicants must agree to give the committee an evaluative report on the program within 60 days of the event or 60 days after approval of funding, whichever is later. For the benefit of the membership, the evaluative report may be published in *Book Marks*.
3. Grant money will be awarded after the evaluative report is received and approved by the committee. In the case of an award for a person attending classes of at least one month in duration, grant money may be awarded when the SDLA treasurer receives proof of registration if the president of SDLA has approved this early disbursement of funds.
4. No applicant may receive more than one financial award per twelve months.
5. If one is received, a copy of a continuing education unit certificate or letter of recognition received upon completion of an institute or workshop should be submitted with the evaluative report.
6. Applicants are eligible to receive only one conference grant every five years.
7. If an applicant leaves South Dakota after being approved for a grant but before the grant money is awarded, then the applicant is not entitled to receive funding, even if the program or course is completed.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. An indication of interest and a request for an application may be made to the committee chairperson or the SDLA president. Applications are also available on the SDLA website.
2. Completed applications may be submitted to the Professional Development Grants Committee at any time during the year. Application deadlines will be May 15 for scholarships, March 15/September 15 for professional development grants. These applications will be acted upon within thirty days of the deadline date. One professional development grant will be awarded following the March 15 deadline. Other applications submitted by March 15 will be reconsidered after the September 15 deadline. The deadline for SDLA Conference Grants is 45 days prior to conference. The applications will be acted upon at least 30 days prior to the conference. Late applications will be considered if the conference grant fund has not been depleted for the year.
3. Applicants should submit one electronic copy or three paper copies of the application and supporting data to the committee chair.
4. Selections for the grants will be made by majority approval of the committee.

(August 2008)

(July 2010)

(September 2010)

(April 2017)