



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2008

**Source**

HCS CSSB 119(FIN)

**Chapter No.**

---

## AN ACT

Relating to grant programs to support libraries.

---

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



## AN ACT

1 Relating to grant programs to support libraries.

2

---

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.56.300 is amended to read:

4                   **Sec. 14.56.300. Library assistance grant program [FUND].** There is  
5                   established in the department a library assistance grant program [FUND]. From  
6                   legislative appropriations [TO THE FUND], the department shall make grants to  
7                   eligible libraries for public library operations, for interlibrary cooperation, or for  
8                   regional library services.

9 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to article 5 to read:

10                   **Sec. 14.56.355. Library construction and major expansion matching grant**  
11                   **program.** (a) There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and  
12                   Economic Development a matching grant program for library construction and major  
13                   expansion.

14                   (b) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible  
15                   library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by

1 the department.

2 (c) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50  
3 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.

4 (d) The department shall establish regulations to implement this section and  
5 the eligibility standards under AS 14.56.356. The regulations must include  
6 consideration for and establishment of an eligibility priority for an application that is  
7 submitted by a community that does not have a public library described in  
8 AS 14.56.356(a)(2).

9 (e) In this section,

10 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,  
11 and Economic Development;

12 (2) "major expansion" means an expansion of an existing library to  
13 increase the square footage of the structure by not less than 30 percent.

14 **Sec. 14.56.356. Eligibility.** (a) To be a library eligible for a grant under  
15 AS 14.56.355, a library must be

16 (1) publicly owned and operated by a community; and  
17 (2) a public library as described in AS 14.56.400 that is not a public  
18 school library.

19 (b) An applicant for a grant under AS 14.56.355 must provide matching funds  
20 from

21 (1) the local government entity in an amount not less than 20 percent  
22 of the total proposed grant project costs; and

23 (2) private donors in an amount not less than the amount remaining of  
24 the total proposed grant project costs after the state and local contributions are made  
25 toward the project.

26 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

27 **Article 5A. Public School Library Collection Development Grants.**

28 **Sec. 14.56.360. Public school library collection development grants.** (a)  
29 There is established in the department a public school library collection development  
30 grant program.

31 (b) The person or division in charge of the state library shall award and

1 administer grants of not more than \$3,000 for a fiscal year for use by a public school  
2 library eligible under AS 14.56.365 to expand and improve the library collection to  
3 include relevant and current reading materials.

4 (c) If money appropriated for the program is insufficient to fund all eligible  
5 grant requests submitted under AS 14.56.365, the available funding shall be awarded  
6 to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in  
7 regulation.

8 **Sec. 14.56.365. Eligibility.** (a) A library eligible for a grant under  
9 AS 14.56.360 must be a public school library established and supported by a school  
10 district that

11 (1) provides physical space or, if a correspondence school operated by  
12 a school district, resources for use as a library;

13 (2) provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students enrolled  
14 in the school;

15 (3) provides designated library personnel to staff the library;

16 (4) provides acceptable evidence of the promotion of library and  
17 information literacy standards;

18 (5) maintains an annual library budget that includes library staffing and  
19 materials; and

20 (6) contributes, from the school district's budget, an amount that is not  
21 less than the grant award that is paid for library collection materials or contributes in-  
22 kind value of services.

23 (b) The department shall establish by regulation an application and review  
24 procedure, including requirements for submission of adequate documentation to prove  
25 eligibility under this section. Documentation must include submission of library class  
26 schedules, job descriptions for library staff, and a copy of an annual budget for the  
27 library.

28 **Sec. 14.56.370. Eligible expenditures.** (a) A library collection development  
29 grant may be used only to purchase library collection materials by a public school or  
30 by a school district if the district operates a correspondence program with an eligible  
31 school library. In this subsection, "library collection materials" means books,

magazines, reference and audio-visual materials, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum and student reading activities.

(b) A library collection development grant may not be used to supplant school district expenditures for the library or to purchase classroom materials, textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software, or technology support.

**Sec. 14.56.375. Report.** A recipient of a grant awarded under AS 14.56.360 shall prepare a brief annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.