



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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September 3, 2024

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Cathy Tilton
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

President Stevens and Speaker Tilton:

The Department of Education and Early Development has recently received legislative interest regarding the FY2025 Public Library Assistance Grants and the critical importance of this grant program to our libraries, organizations, and communities.

The Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grants program is a non-competitive annual grant program through the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums that provides up to \$7,000 to public libraries in Alaska, including combined public-school libraries, for critical operating expenditures including staff, utilities, collection materials, computers, and educational programming. Eligibility requirements and grant guidelines are found in [AS 14.56.300-340](#), [4 AAC 57.050-57.099](#).

In addition to a final grant report, each public library in Alaska that receives a Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant must fill out a [comprehensive annual report](#)¹ with information about the library's activities, data, and statistics in the past year. These data relay important information about the educational, informational, economic, cultural, and recreational needs of library patrons in Alaska.

In FY2024, a total of \$553,000 was awarded to 79 Alaskan libraries that each received a \$7,000 grant. In FY25, a total of \$150,000 was awarded to 82 Alaskan public libraries that each received an initial \$1,829 grant. The amount of total funding each year is dependent on the availability of funds within the operating budget of the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums allocation for the PLA Grants,

¹ State of Alaska. Department of Education and Early Development. Alaska State Libraries, Archives, and Museums. *Alaska Public Library Statistics FY1987 – Date*. <https://lam.alaska.gov/public-library-stats>

available funding is subject to changes in costs within the annual operating budget for the division. The PLA grant program is currently one of many expenditures under the Library Operations component. The

Division, Department, and State are working closely together to evaluate the Division's planned expenditures for FY2025 to identify additional funding for this grant program. This additional funding will bring the total grant payout to \$7,000 for each Alaskan public library eligible for the FY2025 Public Library Assistance Grant Program.

I encourage Alaskans to comment on the importance of the PLA Grant to their libraries by emailing a message to: eed.library.grants@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deena Bishop", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Deena Bishop, Ed.D.
Commissioner

cc: Representative Sarah Vance, District 6
Director Lacey Sanders, Office of Management and Budget