

## CATEGORIES OF STATE AID

Quality Libraries Aid supports the general operating budget of a local public library. The payment of these funds is based on the population of the library's direct service area, the population for which the library meets basic standards and for which the library spends a minimum of \$5 per capita in local monies.

Incentive for Excellence Aid stimulates local support of the library by providing matching funds for libraries spending more than \$5 per capita of local monies and by meeting the criteria found in "Incentive for Excellence and Minimum Standards for Local Libraries."

County Coordination Aid is paid only to county libraries and county library systems that receive a direct county appropriation or that receive a special county library tax. A match of state aid funds is paid based on class of county in which the library is located. Priorities for the use of these funds are established by an annual county-level plan of service, which is developed by the libraries in the county, and expenditure of the funds is restricted to implementation of the plan.

District Library Center Aid enables 29 of the larger libraries in the state to provide support services to the public libraries in their districts, including advisory services, interlibrary loan, reference assistance, continuing education and delivery service. Besides serving their local residents, district library centers provide professional assistance to librarians, library trustees and the general public in their area.

Resource Center Aid is given to the four libraries that are designated by *The Library Code*, as authorized by Section 303.9. These libraries share the amount available each fiscal year. Each is expected to make its materials available to the residents of the Commonwealth and to participate in the digitization of resources and implementation of online reference services.

Equal Distribution Grants are flat sums of money that are paid to each individual library, branch or bookmobile. To qualify, they must spend twice the equal grant on their collections.

Equalization Aid is paid to libraries serving the most economically distressed communities in the state, as provided by Section 303.10 of *The Library Code*. Libraries serving areas with a high unemployment rate, low personal income or low property values qualify by meeting any one of the following three economic indicators:

- Market value below the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile of all municipalities, as certified annually by the Tax Equalization Board.
- County having personal income per capita below the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile of all counties, as certified annually by the Department of Revenue.
- County having an average unemployment rate above the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile of all counties, as determined annually by the Department of Labor and Industry.