

State Aid Budget Application - 2007-2008

CentralBookAid

2.15 Budget Narrative: Provide a brief narrative, no more than five hundred (500) words, explaining how expenditures in the proposed budget application attain the goals and intended results described in the system's approved Five-Year Plan of Service for the funding year.

Central and Co-Central Libraries: Revised Budget Narrative 2007/2008

Central Library service is provided to the county's residents and to the other NLS Member Library by the Central and Co-Central Libraries and two contract libraries. Levittown Public Library is the Central Library and East Meadow Public Library is the Co-Central Library. The two contract libraries are the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library and the Hempstead Public Library. Hewlett-Woodmere maintains and makes available an in-depth collection of fine arts and music materials and offers related reference services by subject specialists. Hempstead maintains an extensive World Languages collection which it makes available via regular circulation and via deposit collections at the other NLS member libraries. The role of these two contract libraries is described in our Plan of Central Library Services and the funds paid to these libraries for contracted services are included in our Central Library aid budget.

Salaries and the corresponding employee benefits are essential to provide the services in our Central Library Plan of Service. Our Plan includes the goal of maintaining and enhancing reference services to the public and providing back-up reference service assistance to NLS member libraries. Staff, including a Government Documents specialist, are needed to provide this reference service.

Central Library staff must also invest time and effort in the promotion of greater understanding and use of Central Library services and the proficient use of electronic resources by the member libraries as outlined in our Plan of Service.

Central library staff also help NLS' and the Member Libraries' compliance with Commissioner's Regulation 90.3 by issuing state mandated access cards to residents of Nassau County who are untaxed for local library service as well as process interlibrary loan requests for these residents. This, too, is included in our Plan of Service.

Also as per our Plan of Service, the Central Libraries expand access to print, non-print and online resources. The Purchased Services component of the Central Library Aid budget includes the funding for the purchase and/or subscription to these resources. The non print materials purchased allow staff to evaluate and test new information products and services. Among the non-print materials purchases is a comprehensive collection of Described Videos for the vision-impaired which is available county-wide.

Part of the funds allocated for Supplies and Materials are used to cover the cost of processing materials for items purchased with Central Library funds. The remainder is used to produce brochures, bookmarks, and flyers in an effort to increase awareness of Central Library services and promote greater use as per our Plan of Service.

Central Library staff must keep up-to-date professionally in order to be an effective resource for NLS member libraries and the public and to effectively provide the services outlined in our Central Library Services Plan. The funds budgeted for travel expenditures enable staff to attend training seminars offered by other NYS systems such as LILRC and SCLS. Travel expense funding also enables staff to attend meetings and seminars throughout the region and state to promote awareness among elected officials of the unique and essential role and contributions of the Central and Co-Central Libraries – which is another one of the goals included in our Plan of Service.