Chapter 563 of the Laws of 2021 was signed into law on November 3, 2021. One of the no-cost technical amendments to Education Law 273 combines the former Central Library Book Aid and Central Library Development Aid programs into a streamlined, flexible program called Central Library Services Aid (CLSA). The following interim guidelines are intended to supplement the provisions of Education Law 273(1)(b) while adhering to the current provisions of Commissioner's Regulation 90.4 Standards for Central Libraries. The regulation CR 90.4 is scheduled for amendment in 2022.

Questions? Please contact Frank Rees, Public Library System Services Program Manager, at Francis.Rees@nysed.gov.

1. Effective November 3, 2021, Central Book Aid (CBA) and Central Library Development Aid (CLDA) monies are now combined into one State aid funding program called Central Library Services Aid (CLSA).
2. Expenditures of CLSA funds should be consistent with the goals identified in the Central Library Plan of the library system’s approved Five-Year Plan of Service. Amendments or revisions of plans may be made as needed. State Library approval is required before revisions are implemented.
3. Expenditures should strengthen services to the entire library system rather than services that are primarily for the central library’s local service area. State funds should be used to improve services to residents of the entire library system. Funds may not be used for branch library activities.
4. In cooperative and federated library systems, a library system/central library committee is required to make program and expenditure recommendations to the library system. The Central Library Advisory Committee, composed of a broad representation of membership reflecting the diversity of the system, advises the system and central library on the intra-system policy and guidelines for the selection of CLSA material and budgeting for CLSA funds.
5. Expenditure of CLSA funds on library materials should adhere to the provisions of CR 90.4. Expenditures on library materials are limited to adult non-fiction and foreign-language print and non-print materials (including electronic resources).
6. CLSA funds are for the enhancement of the central library’s function as a major reference, information, interlibrary loan, and electronic resource in the system.
7. CLSA funds may be used to support weekend and other extended hours of service at the central library’s main building. State aid for the Central Library program should not supplant local library responsibility for the central library’s minimum hours open per CR 90.2.
8. CLSA funds may be used for equipment, furnishings, and minor remodeling in the central library’s main building.